On Roll Call No. 227 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 4502, I am not recorded because I was fulfilling my Congressional duties at Fort Benning, Georgia. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call No. 228 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 4502, I am not recorded because I was fulfilling my Congressional duties at Fort Benning, Georgia. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 229 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 4502, I am not recorded because I was fulfilling my Congressional duties at Fort Benning, Georgia. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 230 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 4502, I am not recorded because I was fulfilling my Congressional duties at Fort Benning, Georgia. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE TOWN OF CLYMER, NEW YORK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the bicentennial of the Town of Clymer and congratulate the town for reaching this milestone.

The Town of Clymer is a tight-knit, well-established community nestled in Chautauqua County with a rich and vibrant history. Clymer was formed from the mother town of Chautauqua and was organized on February 9, 1821. The town also has deeper roots, as far back as the founding fathers of our Nation. The town's name shows the patriotic spirit of the early settlers as it bears the name of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, George Clymer.

During the time when it was founded, the town consisted of twelve families. The community has grown since then, but the small-town charm has not faded. Farming and agriculture remain a staple industry, including dairy farming and poultry farming. Neckers Company General Store has been located in the main intersection in town since 1910 as a fourth-generation family-owned business.

The people of Clymer have continued the legacy of community, kindness and togetherness that have bound the town together now for two-hundred years. We applaud their efforts toward cultivating, celebrating, and continuing their traditions of small-town living in such a prolific way.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize the bicentennial of the Town of Clymer and congratulate the town for reaching this milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF LONGMONT, COLORADO

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Longmont, Colorado.

In 1870, a group of Chicagoans established a new settlement in northern Colorado. Calling themselves the Colorado-Chicago Colony, the new settlers sold memberships in their adventurous enterprise, using those funds to finance the construction of a town hall and the purchase of 60,000 acres of land for their new town. By mid-1871; the settlers had decided on a name for their town—Longmont, after the nearby Longs Peak. Since then, immigrants from around the world have flocked to Longmont.

Longmont has thrived amid rapid population growth and the arrival and expansion of both its agricultural and technological industries. Today, more than 94,000 individuals call Longmont home. Not only is the city full of history, but it remains a popular place to live. With many major STEM employers, miles of recreational trails, a thriving dining and beverage scene, and stunning views of Longs Peak, Longmont has been ranked by numerous publications as one of the top cities in the United States.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I am honored to celebrate this special occasion alongside the tens of thousands of my constituents who call Longmont home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, I was unable to vote due to attending a classified briefing on an issue important to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call Vote 225, S. 1910—the Major Medical Facility Authorization Act.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the $6 million appropriated in Division D of this bill that will be used to carry out postal banking pilot projects across the country. Let's be clear, implementing postal banking is one of progressives' top priorities.

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.''

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 core mission ''is delivery, not banking.'' Postmaster General DeJoy reiterated this position earlier this year.

The Task Force said no. The Post Office said no. Yet progressives want it.

Why? Postal banking is one step closer to overhauling our banking system. It's one step closer to creating a public bank option. It's one step closer to the federal government knowing everything about a consumer's financial history—from each credit card transaction to each deposit and withdrawal. Big brother will be watching you.

Not to mention this would stifle private sector innovation by banks and fintech firms that have already shown promise for reaching underbanked and rural consumers.

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 branch closures and consolidations result from overly burdensome government regulation. It can't be solved with 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 office. 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.

Private sector financial institutions are highly regulated and operate competitively and flexibly in a market-based system. The ensures consumers' demands for financial products and services are met, and they receive the best pricing for them.

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.