

knows there is a whole lot for big corporations in this bill but not enough for family farmers like him who want to plant something in their ground other than a for sale sign.

This bill is a step backward for the families that I met a few weeks ago who stand in line at St. Leo emergency food pantry in Tacoma and sometimes wait for hours so that they can feed their kids and make ends meet while they look for jobs.

This bill cuts the safety net that helps dairy farmers I met with in Grays Harbor when our changing climate floods their fields and turns acres of soil to dust.

The majority claims they want to rebuild our rural economies, but this bill cuts rural development grants that help business owners in Forks and Sequim keep the lights on.

You know, I haven't received one letter of support for what we are voting on today. The only people I have heard from are D.C. insiders who have misguided notions about real families struggling to make ends meet. This bill doesn't care enough about real farmers counting on this bill, and the families in St. Leo and the 1.5 million veterans and 22,000 servicemembers who feed their families with nutrition assistance.

It is wrong, Mr. Speaker, and it is another example why so many people are losing their faith in government. Let's vote this down and put together a bipartisan farm bill that does more to help people.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the brave men and women in blue who serve and protect us each and every day.

This week is National Police Week, but we owe constant gratitude to these individuals who risk their lives to enforce the law and protect families across the United States. Law enforcement officers take time away from their families and their loved ones, often without the thanks they deserve and often putting themselves in harm's way.

This week, we remember the officers who are currently serving, like Aaron Trombley from the Tri-Cities in my district, who was selected as the Washington State Trooper of the Year. We also remember those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

In January of this year, Deputy Daniel McCartney of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department in Washington was shot and killed after responding to a burglary, leaving behind a wife and three young children. Deputy McCartney and all of the other fallen officers will not be forgotten for their sacrifice.

I want to personally thank the police and sheriffs' departments, Washington

State Patrol, and all the Federal officers who keep central Washington's communities safe. This week and every day, we offer our appreciation and respect for law enforcement officers across the Nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. KERSTIN WASSON

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kerstin Wasson, the research coordinator to the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, one of the many environmental crown jewels in my district on the central coast of California.

This week, Dr. Wasson received the 2018 National Wetlands Award for Science Research. This prestigious award recognizes Dr. Wasson's extraordinary commitment to the conservation and restoration of our Nation's wetlands. For more than 18 years, Dr. Wasson has distinguished herself as a researcher, conservationist, and mentor at the Elkhorn Slough. It is a great fit for her as it is one of California's few remaining coastal wetlands and a valuable, ecological asset to our community and, I believe, our country.

The Elkhorn Slough reserve manager, Dave Feliz, said Dr. Wasson is a secret weapon to protect our Nation's estuaries. She has been instrumental in informing coastal decisionmakers and implementing initiatives that protect the Elkhorn Slough.

I thank Dr. Wasson, a wetland hero, for her work and congratulate her for this honor.

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS IN BLUE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor those serving and remember those who have served in the ranks of our Nation's law enforcement.

Our brave law enforcement officers at all levels—Federal, State, and local—run towards danger knowing the serious risks involved.

Just 2 weeks ago, a Federal law enforcement officer working with Chicago police was shot in the face as he worked to get illegally trafficked guns out of the hands of criminal gangs. We hope and pray for his quick recovery.

Stories like these are a grim reminder of the inherent danger of their job. It is why we take time this week and every week to show our support for their work and their service.

To our friends in blue everywhere, we simply say: Thank you. Thank you for all that you do to keep us safe. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice. We are with you, and we are grateful.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF TWO NEVADA POLICE OFFICERS

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

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of two Nevada police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2017: Detective Chad William Parque of the North Las Vegas Police Department, and Officer Charleston Vernon Hartfield of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Detective Parque was a 10-year veteran of the force. He was a loving husband and father, a selfless member of our community, and a dedicated investigator. His warmth and his passion left a mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Officer Hartfield was a victim of the horrific 1 October tragedy. He was a husband and a father, an Army veteran, a first sergeant in the Nevada Army National Guard, the author of a memoir, and a youth football coach. Officer Hartfield had an unwavering dedication to his community. I attended the candlelight vigil in his memory shortly after his death, and I saw firsthand how many lives he touched.

Detective Parque and Officer Hartfield were taken from us far too soon. Their profound sense of duty and service will live on as an example for all of us. May their memories be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING MAINE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, fellow Mainers and law enforcement officials from across our great State gathered in Augusta to add one more name to the Maine Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall: Nathan Desjardins.

The number of names on the memorial wall recognizes all law enforcement officers in the State of Maine who have died in the line of duty. That number, Mr. Speaker, has now reached 85.

Yesterday, we also honored Corporal Eugene Cole of the Somerset County Sheriff's Department. He was killed in the line of duty, Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago. His name will be added to the memorial wall next year.

My heart goes out to the families of these two brave law enforcement officials whose lives were both tragically cut short.

As Police Week comes to a close, let us all remember and recognize the immeasurable courage, sacrifice, and dedication of our law enforcement personnel across our Nation. Every day, they put their lives on that thin blue line that keeps our families safe and our communities strong. And, Mr.

Speaker, sometimes they don't return home.

May the good Lord accept Nathan Desjardins and Eugene Cole to rest in peace. Maine, America, and our world is a much better place because of their good work and their sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May 13 through 19 as National Police Week. This week is a special time to honor the law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty protecting our communities.

Last Sunday, 360 of those brave men and women were added to the number of fallen law enforcement heroes on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Their sacrifice is not forgotten, and their families remain in our prayers during this week of remembrance.

We are blessed to live in a country founded on the rule of law, and this cherished principle would not be preserved without our Nation's dedicated law enforcement officers.

This week, we also show our gratitude to the 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line daily for our safety. Thanks for all you do.

AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2018

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 900 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. 2.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON) kindly take the chair.

□ 0914

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. 2) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes, with Mr. FERGUSON (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, May 17, 2018, amendment No. 20 printed

in House Report 115-679 offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) had been disposed of.

□ 0915

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 115-679.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, 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 part III of subtitle C of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 8334. PILOT PROJECT FOR FOREST HEALTH, WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT, AND HABITAT RESTORATION IN NEW MEXICO.

(a) PILOT PROJECT ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall conduct a pilot project within the Lincoln National Forest, Cibola National Forest, and Gila National Forest in the State of New Mexico to analyze and demonstrate the effectiveness of various tools and techniques to address the following natural resource concerns:

- (1) Thinning for forest health.
- (2) Watershed improvement.
- (3) Habitat restoration.

(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture in carrying out the pilot project established under subsection (a) may conduct applied silvicultural investigations and treatments, including—

- (1) silvicultural investigations conducted for the purposes of information gathering and research relating to the natural resource concerns described in subsection (a); and
- (2) mechanical thinning.

(c) COUNTY REFUSAL OF SILVICULTURAL INVESTIGATION OR TREATMENT.—The Secretary may not carry out a silvicultural investigation or treatment under this section if a county in which such investigation or treatment would be conducted provides a refusal to the Secretary with respect to such investigation or treatment.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.—Forest management activities carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section are a category of actions hereby designated as being categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(f) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall encourage meaningful public participation during preparation of a silvicultural investigation or treatment under this section.

(g) USE OF ARBITRATION INSTEAD OF LITIGATION TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES TO FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) DISCRETIONARY ARBITRATION PROCESS PILOT PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a discretionary arbitration pilot program as an alternative dispute resolution process in lieu of judicial review for the an objection or protest to a forest management activity carried out pursuant to this section.

(B) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The Secretary of Agriculture, at the sole discretion of the Secretary, may designate objections or protests to forest management activities for arbitration under the arbitration pilot program established under subparagraph (A).

(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ARBITRATIONS.—Under the arbitration pilot program, the Secretary concerned may not arbitrate more

than 10 objections or protests to forest management activities in a fiscal year in each Forest Service Region.

(D) DETERMINING AMOUNT OF ARBITRATIONS.—An objection or protest to a forest management activity shall not be counted towards the limitation on number of arbitrations under subparagraph (C) unless—

(i) on the date such objection or protest is designated for arbitration, the forest management activity for which such objection or protest is filed has not been the subject of arbitration proceedings under the pilot program; and

(ii) the arbitration proceeding has commenced with respect to such objection or protest.

(2) INTERVENING PARTIES.—

(A) REQUIREMENTS.—Any person that submitted a public comment on the forest management activity that is subject to arbitration may intervene in the arbitration—

(i) by endorsing—

(I) the forest management activity; or

(II) the modification proposal submitted under clause (ii); or

(ii) by submitting a proposal to further modify the forest management activity.

(B) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.—With respect to an objection or protest that is designated for arbitration under paragraph (1)(B), a request to intervene in an arbitration must be submitted not later than the date that is 30 days after the date on which such objection or protest was designated for arbitration.

(C) MULTIPLE PARTIES.—Multiple intervening parties may submit a joint proposal so long as each intervening party meets the eligibility requirements of subparagraph (A).

(3) APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATOR.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall develop and publish a list of not fewer than 20 individuals eligible to serve as arbitrators for the arbitration pilot program under this section.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—In order to be eligible to serve as an arbitrator under this paragraph, an individual shall be, on the date of the appointment of such arbitrator—

(i) certified by the American Arbitration Association; and

(ii) not a registered lobbyist.

(C) SELECTION OF ARBITRATOR.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For each arbitration commenced under this subsection, the Secretary concerned and each applicable objector or protestor shall agree, not later than 14 days after the agreement process is initiated, on a mutually acceptable arbitrator from the list published under subparagraph (A).

(ii) APPOINTMENT AFTER 14-DAYS.—In the case of an agreement with respect to a mutually acceptable arbitrator not being reached within the 14-day limit described in clause (i), the Secretary concerned shall appoint an arbitrator from the list published under subparagraph (A).

(4) SELECTION OF PROPOSALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The arbitrator appointed under paragraph (3)—

(i) may not modify any of the proposals submitted with the objection, protest, or request to intervene; and

(ii) shall select to be conducted—

(I) the forest management activity, as approved by the Secretary; or

(II) a proposal submitted by an objector or an intervening party.

(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—An arbitrator shall, when selecting a proposal, consider—

(i) whether the proposal is consistent with the applicable forest plan, laws, and regulations;

(ii) whether the proposal can be carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(iii) the effect of each proposal on—

(I) forest health;