

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, H.R. 4606, the Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act, is far from perfect, as several of our colleagues have noted. The amendment I am offering today would reverse most of the bill's most egregious shortcomings and help ensure that liquefied natural gas exports benefiting from expedited approval truly are in the public interest, as the original bill purports to do.

This amendment would help keep methane waste to a minimum for the LNG exports permitted by the bill. It requires export applications to show that the natural gas was produced using available techniques and technologies to minimize methane emissions from leaks or venting.

In other words, this amendment would require companies developing liquefied natural gas for export to actually develop and export the natural gas rather than venting vast quantities into the atmosphere or lighting it on fire.

This requirement is easy to implement with readily available technologies. Many companies are already working to reduce their methane emissions.

Sara Ortwein, president of XTO Energy, a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, just this week stated her company's continued support for Federal methane regulations, and she is far from alone.

In Colorado, we have had strong methane rules in place since 2014, and our oil and gas industry has continued to thrive, even as it is required to find and stop the leaks.

Stopping these leaks has real benefits. There is widespread scientific consensus that methane leaks into the atmosphere significantly contribute to climate change. The volatile organic compounds released with the methane increase ground-level pollution and harm public health. When natural gas is produced on public land, it leaks rob taxpayers of royalties on the wasted gas.

So we can and we must prevent such needless harmful emissions wherever possible, and this measure is one way to do it. It would increase the royalties collected for taxpayers; it would reduce climate-changing emissions; and it would protect public health.

Vote for it and you will vote for a better future for our constituents, for our children, and for generations to come.

Now, colleagues who are considering whether to support this amendment may be interested to learn that natural and regional polling consistently show strong bipartisan support for methane rules. Sixty to 80 percent or more of those polled expressed their approval.

Now, there may be many reasons for which some people will oppose this amendment, but I can't think of any that would stand up to scrutiny. I would look forward to discussing those reasons here. And if you oppose this amendment, let's talk about it.

Otherwise, we can reduce these emissions; we can pass this bill; and it would go a long way toward cleaning up our environment and saving money.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Chair, this amendment is unnecessary and misguided because emissions from natural gas wells are already regulated by the EPA and States under the Clean Air Act.

H.R. 4606 applies only to projects that have already undergone rigorous environmental review and are eligible for an exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act.

□ 1445

Other than the Natural Gas Act, DOE has the responsibility to protect the public interest. In doing so, DOE must consider whether the project applicant is following the laws and regulations, including those under the Clean Air Act.

Let's be clear about the environmental benefits of natural gas in general and this legislation, specifically.

U.S. carbon emissions in 2017 were the lowest they have been since 1992 because we are using more clean natural gas. Unfortunately, carbon emissions are increasing in other parts of the world because they don't have access to clean-burning natural gas. Our friends in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean are still burning Venezuelan fuel oil in places where our U.S. LNG can replace that fuel oil.

H.R. 4606 is good for our economy. It is good for new American jobs, and it is good for our environment. This legislation will start America's rise as a world-class exporter of natural gas, which will help reduce emissions and pollution all across the globe.

If you really care about reducing emissions, you can't deny the benefits of this legislation.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, just quickly, these rules that the gentleman referred to, alleging that they solve the problem, I would just say the BLM Methane and Waste Prevention rule was eliminated by the Trump EPA under Scott Pruitt, and so that is not controlling the public lands emissions right now, which is what this amendment would do. And the EPA rule under the Clean Air Act is also under attack.

Really, if it is current law, why not just support it? Why not say, if we are going to be developing this LNG, let's stop these leaks? Because it helps our environment, it helps with our air and our climate change, and it also helps with profits. And, frankly, for the BLM lands and the other Federal lands, it will help the taxpayers recover money.

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, again, this bill is all about good-paying American jobs.

American exports of liquefied natural gas help our neighbors in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. This bill makes our air cleaner. Let's lock those benefits in for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4606 and oppose this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CALVERT). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, 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 Colorado will be postponed.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CHENEY) having assumed the chair, Mr. CALVERT, 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. 4606) to provide that applications under the Natural Gas Act for the importation or exportation of small volumes of natural gas shall be granted without modification or delay, had come to no resolution thereon.

**MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 6147, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019**

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Calvert moves that the House take from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 6147, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, this is a necessary step to continue to move the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process forward under regular order.

On July 19, the House passed H.R. 6147 by a vote of 217-199, which includes the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Financial Services and General Government bills.

The Senate has now sent H.R. 6147 back to the House with the Agriculture

and Transportation bills added to the package. With the appointment of these conferees, the House and the Senate may begin to resolve differences, with the goal of passing H.R. 6147 before the end of the fiscal year.

As such, I strongly support this motion.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to instruct conferees at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. McCollum moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 6147 be instructed to agree to section 114 of division A of the matter proposed to be added by the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this motion would instruct conferees to use a provision from the Senate Interior Appropriations bill that guarantees full funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. The Payment in Lieu of Taxes program—or PILT, as I will refer to it from now on—provides Federal payments to local governments to help offset the loss of property taxes due to nontransferable Federal lands within their boundaries.

Since local governments cannot tax Federal lands, PILT payments help defray the cost for maintaining vital community services, such as police and fire protection and construction of schools and roads in many cases. It also provides much-needed search and rescue operations.

To date, including fiscal year 2018 payments, approximately \$8.5 billion in payments have been made to local units of government. These payments are a vital lifeline for communities across this country.

Originally, PILT was part of the discretionary appropriations process; but often, Congress failed to provide enough funding for our counties and

they ended up being shortchanged. To stop this from happening and to correct the problem, the program was made mandatory. However, Congress has failed to authorize the PILT program, so we are back to funding PILT through the Interior Appropriations bill.

Funding PILT through the discretionary appropriations process creates uncertainty and unpredictability for local governments across this country. Why? Because the amount available to be appropriated for PILT is constrained by the 302(b) allocation provided in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. And with less than a 1 percent funding increase for 2018 and 2019, it just goes to show that the Interior allocation cannot continue to keep pace with the rising cost of PILT.

At the same time, we need to meet other important obligations in the Interior bill, such as providing healthcare for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance on Federal lands, and maintaining our national parks, only to name a few.

In the past 25 years, PILT has grown from \$103 million to \$553 million in fiscal year '18. The estimate for this year is again going to exceed \$500 million.

I agree with our local units of government; PILT should be funded as a permanent mandatory program. But with the reauthorizers not having completed their work, the next best thing we can do is to pass this motion to guarantee full funding for our counties.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense motion, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the motion to instruct conferees. The House and Senate, both Democrats and Republicans, have been working together to complete work on as many appropriations bills as possible as quickly as possible. We face a looming deadline of September 30. We are making great progress.

The conferees recognize the importance of the four bills included in this conference package: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; Financial Services and General Government; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; and Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. These programs support economic growth, the preservation and promotion of our natural resources and agricultural products, and critical law enforcement functions.

As chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I am determined to complete this legislation, a commitment I know my friends on the other side of the aisle and on the other side of the Capitol also share.

As we are doing with the two other conference committees, both of which I am serving on, we are negotiating in good faith and working to ensure that the agencies and departments under these bills are adequately funded.

The House and Senate are returning to regular order, and this is great news for the American people. We should let the process work as intended.

Given this, this motion to instruct is unnecessary. I am sure it is going to be one of the items we will be discussing over the next few days. We should not risk any delays to completing the final conference report for these four bills, particularly given the deadline and limited number of legislative days ahead.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this motion to instruct conferees, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's reluctance in opposing this because the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program is a nonpartisan issue and it is something that the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee has been struggling with over our allocations, and it is something, as I bring up, that the Senate has in their bill, something which I think is a good idea and should be discussed. I look forward to further discussions on this, as well as with the other conference committee the chairman and I serve on, Madam Speaker.

But we have a precedent for using this provision. In fact, it a fiscal year 2018 enacted bill. This provision would simply ensure that 100 percent of the PILT payments will be made even if the cost exceeds the cost of the Interior Department's original estimate.

So this is a backstop. This is a guarantee. We still need the authorizers to do their work, but this is to make sure that we don't shortchange any of the other important programs that we fund in the Interior bill. So in my opinion, this is a commonsense issue, and I would urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on that.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his comments and look forward to going to conference and completing our goal together.

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

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

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

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

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 187, nays 218, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 388]

YEAS—187

Adams Gabbard Nadler  
 Aguilar Gallego Napolitano  
 Barragán Garamendi Nolan  
 Bass Gohmert Norcross  
 Beatty Gomez O'Halleran  
 Bera Gonzalez (TX) O'Rourke  
 Beyer Gottheimer Pallone  
 Bishop (GA) Green, Al Panetta  
 Blumenauer Green, Gene Pascrell  
 Blunt Rochester Grijalva Payne  
 Bonamici Gutiérrez Pelosi  
 Boyle, Brendan Hanabusa Perlmutter  
 F. Hastings Peters  
 Brady (PA) Heck Peterson  
 Brown (MD) Higgins (NY) Pingree  
 Brownley (CA) Himes Pocan  
 Bustos Hoyer Polis  
 Butterfield Jackson Lee Price (NC)  
 Carbajal Jayapal Quigley  
 Cárdenas Jeffries Raskin  
 Carson (IN) Johnson (GA) Rice (NY)  
 Cartwright Johnson, E. B. Richmond  
 Castor (FL) Jones Rogers (AL)  
 Castro (TX) Kaptur Rosen  
 Chu, Judy Keating Roybal-Allard  
 Cicilline Kelly (IL) Ruiz  
 Clark (MA) Kennedy Ruppersberger  
 Clarke (NY) Khanna Rush  
 Clay Kihuen Sánchez  
 Cleaver Kildee Sarbanes  
 Clyburn Kilmer Schakowsky  
 Cohen Kind Schiff  
 Connolly Krishnamoorthi Schneider  
 Cooper Kuster (NH) Schrader  
 Correa Lamb Scott (VA)  
 Costa Langevin Scott, David  
 Courtney Larsen (WA) Serrano  
 Crist Larson (CT) Sewell (AL)  
 Crowley Lawrence Shea-Porter  
 Cuellar Lawson (FL) Sherman  
 Cummings Lee Sinema  
 Davis (CA) Levin Sires  
 Davis, Danny Lewis (GA) Smith (WA)  
 DeFazio Lieu, Ted Soto  
 DeGette Lipinski Suozzi  
 Delaney Loeb sack Swalwell (CA)  
 DeLauro Lofgren Takano  
 DelBene Lowenthal Thompson (CA)  
 Demings Lowey Thompson (MS)  
 DeSaulnier Lujan Grisham, Tonko  
 Deutch M. Torres  
 Dingell Luján, Ben Ray Tsongas  
 Doggett Lynch Vargas  
 Donovan Maloney, Veasey  
 Doyle, Michael Carolyn B. Vela  
 F. Matsui Velázquez  
 Duncan (TN) McCollum Visclosky  
 Engel McGovern Wasserman  
 Espallat McNeerney Schultz  
 Esty (CT) Meeks Waters, Maxine  
 Evans Meng Watson Coleman  
 Foster Moore Welch  
 Frankel (FL) Moulton Wilson (FL)  
 Fudge Murphy (FL) Yarmuth

NAYS—218

Abraham Byrne Estes (KS)  
 Aderholt Calvert Faso  
 Allen Carter (GA) Ferguson  
 Amash Carter (TX) Fitzpatrick  
 Amodoi Chabot Fleischmann  
 Arrington Cheney Flores  
 Babin Cloud Fortenberry  
 Bacon Coffman Foeux  
 Balderson Cole Frelinghuysen  
 Banks (IN) Collins (GA) Gaetz  
 Barletta Collins (NY) Gallagher  
 Barr Comer Garrett  
 Barton Comstock Gibbs  
 Bergman Conaway Goodlatte  
 Biggs Cook Gosar  
 Billirakis Costello (PA) Gowdy  
 Bishop (MI) Cramer Granger  
 Bishop (UT) Crawford Graves (GA)  
 Black Culberson Graves (LA)  
 Blum Curbelo (FL) Graves (MO)  
 Bost Curtis Griffith  
 Brady (TX) Davidson Grothman  
 Brat Davis, Rodney Guthrie  
 Brooks (AL) Denham Handel  
 Brooks (IN) DesJarlais Harper  
 Buchanan Diaz-Balart Harris  
 Buck Duffy Hartzler  
 Bucshon Duncan (SC) Hensarling  
 Budd Dunn Herrera Beutler  
 Burgess Emmer Hice, Jody B.

Higgins (LA) Hill  
 Hill Holding  
 Hollingsworth  
 Hudson  
 Huelskamp  
 Hultgren  
 Hunter  
 Hurd  
 Jenkins (KS)  
 Johnson (LA)  
 Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson, Sam  
 Jordan  
 Joyce (OH)  
 Katko  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 King (LA)  
 King (NY)  
 Kinzinger  
 Knight  
 Kustoff (TN)  
 Labrador  
 LaHood  
 LaMalfa  
 Lamborn  
 Lance  
 Latta  
 Lesko  
 Lewis (MN)  
 LoBiondo  
 Long  
 Loudermilk  
 Love  
 Lucas  
 Luetkemeyer  
 MacArthur  
 Marchant  
 Marino  
 Marshall  
 Massie  
 Mast  
 McCarthy  
 McCaul  
 McClintock  
 McHenry  
 McKinley  
 McMorris  
 Rodgers  
 McSally  
 Meadows  
 Messer  
 Mitchell  
 Moolenaar  
 Mooney (WV)  
 Mullin  
 Newhouse  
 Norman  
 Nunes  
 Olson  
 Palmer  
 Pearce  
 Perry  
 Pittenger  
 Poe (TX)  
 Poliquin  
 Posey  
 Ratcliffe  
 Reed  
 Reichert  
 Renacci  
 Rice (SC)  
 Roby  
 Roe (TN)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rohrabacher  
 Rokita  
 Rooney, Francis  
 Roskam  
 Ross  
 Rothfus  
 Rouzer  
 Rutherford  
 Sanford  
 Scalise  
 Schweikert  
 Scott, Austin  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Sessions  
 Shimkus  
 Simpson  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smith (TX)  
 Smucker  
 Stefanik  
 Stewart  
 Stivers  
 Taylor  
 Tenney  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Thornberry  
 Tipton  
 Trott  
 Turner  
 Upton  
 Valadao  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Walden  
 Walker  
 Walorski  
 Walters, Mimi  
 Weber (TX)  
 Webster (FL)  
 Wenstrup  
 Westerman  
 Williams  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Woodall  
 Yoder  
 Yoho  
 Young (AK)  
 Young (IA)  
 Zeldin

NOT VOTING—24

Blackburn  
 Capuano  
 DeSantis  
 Ellison  
 Eshoo  
 Gianforte  
 Huffman  
 Issa  
 Jenkins (WV)  
 Maloney, Sean  
 McEachin  
 Neal  
 Noem  
 Palazzo  
 Paulsen  
 Rooney, Thomas  
 J.  
 Ros-Lehtinen  
 Royce (CA)  
 Russell  
 Ryan (OH)  
 Shuster  
 Speier  
 Titus  
 Walz

□ 1528

Mrs. COMSTOCK, Messrs. LEWIS of Minnesota, HUNTER, TURNER, GRIF-FITH, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. DENHAM, ROKITA, COLLINS of Georgia, BOST, DUFFY, and STEWART changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. CROWLEY and DONOVAN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 388.

ENSURING SMALL SCALE LNG CERTAINTY AND ACCESS ACT

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUTHERFORD). Pursuant to House Resolution 1049 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. 4606.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) kindly take the chair.

□ 1530

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. 4606) to provide that applications under the Natural Gas Act for the importation or exportation of small volumes of natural gas shall be granted without modification or delay, with Mr. WEBER of Texas (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 115-919 offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) had been 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 B of House Report 115-919 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey.

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. DEGETTE of Colorado.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

The ACTING Chair. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes 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 requested.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 176, noes 227, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 389]

AYES—176

Adams	Chu, Judy	Demings
Aguilar	Cicilline	DeSaulnier
Barragán	Clark (MA)	Deutch
Bass	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Beatty	Clay	Doggett
Bera	Cleaver	Doyle, Michael
Beyer	Clyburn	F.
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Engel
Blumenauer	Connolly	Espallat
Blunt Rochester	Cooper	Esty (CT)
Bonamici	Correa	Evans
Boyle, Brendan	Costa	Foster
F.	Courtney	Frankel (FL)
Brady (PA)	Crist	Fudge
Brown (MD)	Crowley	Gabbard
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Gallego
Bustos	Cummings	Garamendi
Butterfield	Davis (CA)	Gomez
Carbajal	Davis, Danny	Gonzalez (TX)
Cárdenas	DeFazio	Gottheimer
Carson (IN)	DeGette	Green, Al
Cartwright	Delaney	Grijalva
Castor (FL)	DeLauro	Gutiérrez
Castro (TX)	DelBene	Hanabusa