

same opportunities to benefit from apprenticeships.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of H.R. 5509, the innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act. I comment Majority Leader McCARTHY for his leadership in addressing this important issue with this legislation.

I am heartened to see so much attention being paid to the importance of developing a STEM workforce that is equipped to meet the demands of an increasingly automated and technology-driven economy. As Ranking Member of the Science Committee, I am committed to ensuring all students and individuals seeking a career change have access to the education and technical skills training they need to pursue high-paying, meaningful STEM careers.

It is high time we as a society recognize the value of apprenticeships as avenues to high quality careers. We have work to do to change the perception of skilled technical labor and it starts by recognizing that our STEM workforce includes so much more than just those with advanced STEM degrees.

A strong STEM workforce is built on the foundation of blue collar STEM workers—workers who use their extensive STEM knowledge and skills day in and day out without the need for a traditional four-year degree.

Blue collar STEM workers contribute to our nation's economic competitiveness in immeasurable ways. What good is it for a company to have the most innovative engineers and scientists if they don't have the laboratory managers, technicians, mechanics, IT workers, machinists, and welders to transform their ideas into reality? We will need more blue collar STEM workers if we are to keep pace with our global competitors.

One key barrier to developing a strong STEM workforce is the misalignment between the education and training provided at community colleges and universities and the knowledge and skills employers need. H.R. 5509 takes us in the right direction by directing federal support for developing and improving STEM associate degree and applied learning programs in partnership with local employers.

In the new congress I look forward to continuing to explore ways in which Congress can help strengthen the blue collar STEM workforce that is so vital to our success.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 5509.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### NASA ENHANCED USE LEASING EXTENSION ACT OF 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 7) to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 7

*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 “NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act of 2018”.

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO LEASES OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 20145(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2018” and inserting “December 31, 2019”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 7, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act of 2018 facilitates commercial access to NASA infrastructure and facilities.

NASA's enhanced use lease authority gives NASA a crucial tool to partner with the private sector. For instance, NASA used EUL authority to lease SpaceX, the historic Apollo and Space Shuttle launch Pad 39A, promoting the transition from all-government space activities to commercial ventures.

I would like to thank Senator ROGER WICKER for his initiative on this bill which allows NASA to continue to implement this key authority while Congress works out a long-term solution to NASA's use of excess property.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 7, the NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act of 2018. In the interest of time, I will be placing extended remarks in the RECORD. Let me just say that this is a commonsense bill to extend an authority that helps NASA more efficiently manage its assets.

I rise in support of S.7, the “NASA Enhanced Use Lease Extension Act of 2018”.

Enhanced use leasing, or “EUL” allows the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—NASA—to enter into agreements with state and local governments, academia, private sector entities, and other Federal government agencies to lease non-excess and underutilized properties at NASA.

NASA's EUL authority allows the agency to accept lease revenues, in turn helping NASA to reduce operating costs and make improvements to facility conditions. The EUL authority helps NASA manage the agency's real property, including the preservation of underutilized or unique, historic properties. According to NASA, in Fiscal Year 2017, five NASA Centers used enhanced use leasing resulting in a total of approximately \$5.4 million in net revenue for the agency.

Congress granted NASA authority to demonstrate enhanced use leasing at two NASA Field Centers as part the Fiscal Year 2003 Consolidated Appropriations Resolution. The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act expanded the authority to agency-wide use. Since then, the authority has been amended in 2008, and further amended in 2012 to allow NASA to accept in-kind considerations for leases for the purpose of developing renewable energy production facilities.

The NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017—Public Law 115–10—extended NASA's EUL authority until December 31, 2018.

The bill we are considering today provides a clean one-year extension until December 31, 2019. This extension will allow NASA to continue existing EUL arrangements and to make progress on developing new arrangements that are currently underway.

I urge my colleagues to pass S.7, the “NASA Enhanced Use Lease Extension Act of 2018.”

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

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support passage of S. 7, the “NASA Enhanced Use Lease Extension Act of 2018”.

NASA's enhanced use leasing or “EUL” authority provides the agency with tools to help manage its real property. NASA has, for example, used EUL to preserve underutilized property and make improvements to facility conditions.

EUL allows the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—NASA—to enter into agreements with state and local governments, academia, private sector entities, and other Federal government agencies to lease non-excess and underutilized properties at NASA.

According to NASA, in Fiscal Year 2017, NASA used enhanced use leasing resulting in a total of approximately \$5.4 million in net revenue for the agency.

Congress first granted NASA authority to demonstrate enhanced use leasing in the early 2000s. Since that time, Congress has expanded and extended the agency's EUL authority.

The NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017—Public Law 115–10—extended NASA's EUL authority until December 31, 2018.

The bill we are considering today provides a clean one-year extension until December 31,

2019. This extension will allow NASA to continue existing EUL arrangements and to make progress on developing new arrangements that are currently underway.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes and pass S. 7, the “NASA Enhanced Use Lease Extension Act of 2018.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 7.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2200) to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2200

*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 “National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018”.

#### SEC. 2. NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “in order to make usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought, including” and inserting “, including precipitation, soil moisture, and evaporative demand, in order to make usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought and”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “watershed,” after “regional,”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting “, through interagency agreements” after “integrate”;

(ii) by inserting “information” after “warning”;

(D) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) utilize existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships, including forecast communication coordinators and cooperative institutes, and improvements in seasonal precipitation and temperature, sub-seasonal precipitation and temperature, and low flow water prediction; and”;

(E) in paragraph (6), by inserting “the prediction,” after “relating to”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—The National Integrated Drought Information System may—

“(1) engage with the private sector to improve drought monitoring, forecast, and

communication if the Under Secretary determines the partnership is appropriate, cost-effective, and beneficial to the public and decisionmakers described in subsection (b)(2)(A);

“(2) facilitate the development of 1 or more academic cooperative partnerships to assist with National Integrated Drought Information System functions; and

“(3) utilize and support, as appropriate, monitoring by citizen scientists, including by developing best practices to facilitate maximum data integration.”;

(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by inserting “and sustainment” after “development”;

(5) by striking subsection (f), as redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(f) SOIL MOISTURE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018, the Under Secretary, acting through the National Integrated Drought Information System, shall develop a strategy for a national coordinated soil moisture monitoring network.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 4 of the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

“(1) \$13,500,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(2) \$13,750,000 for fiscal year 2020;

“(3) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(4) \$14,250,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

“(5) \$14,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.”.

#### SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF TITLE II OF THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT OF 2017.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF TITLE II OF THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT OF 2017.—Section 1762 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (15 U.S.C. 8521) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities under this section—

“(1) \$26,500,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(2) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

“(3) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(4) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

“(5) \$28,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) DERIVATION OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the National Weather Service.”.

(b) UNITED STATES WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING IMPROVEMENT.—Section 110 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8519) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 110. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.  
“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to carry out this title—

“(1) \$136,516,000 for fiscal year 2019, of which—

“(A) \$85,758,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes;

“(B) \$30,758,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

“(C) \$20,000,000 is authorized for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 102(b)(4);

“(2) \$148,154,000 for fiscal year 2020, of which—

“(A) \$87,258,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes;

“(B) \$40,896,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

“(C) \$20,000,000 is authorized for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 102(b)(4);

“(3) \$150,154,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which—

“(A) \$88,758,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes;

“(B) \$41,396,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

“(C) \$20,000,000 is authorized for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 102(b)(4);

“(4) \$152,154,000 for fiscal year 2022, of which—

“(A) \$90,258,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes;

“(B) \$41,896,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

“(C) \$20,000,000 is authorized for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 102(b)(4); and

“(5) \$154,154,000 for fiscal year 2023, of which—

“(A) \$91,758,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes;

“(B) \$42,396,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs; and

“(C) \$20,000,000 is authorized for the joint technology transfer initiative described in section 102(b)(4).

“(b) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title.”.

#### SEC. 4. EARTH PREDICTION INNOVATION CENTER.

(a) WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION.—Section 102(b) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) Advancing weather modeling skill, reclaiming and maintaining international leadership in the area of numerical weather prediction, and improving the transition of research into operations by—

“(A) leveraging the weather enterprise to provide expertise on removing barriers to improving numerical weather prediction;

“(B) enabling scientists and engineers to effectively collaborate in areas important for improving operational global numerical weather prediction skill, including model development, data assimilation techniques, systems architecture integration, and computational efficiencies;

“(C) strengthening the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s ability to undertake research projects in pursuit of substantial advancements in weather forecast skill;

“(D) utilizing and leverage existing resources across the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enterprise; and

“(E) creating a community global weather research modeling system that—

“(i) is accessible by the public;

“(ii) meets basic end-user requirements for running on public computers and networks located outside of secure National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration information and technology systems; and

“(iii) utilizes, whenever appropriate and cost-effective, innovative strategies and methods, including cloud-based computing capabilities, for hosting and management of part or all of the system described in this subsection.”.

(b) UNITED STATES WEATHER RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 108(a) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 8520(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking “; and” and inserting a semi-colon;

(2) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) carry out the activities of the Earth Prediction Innovation Center as described in section 102(b)(2) of the Weather Research and