

get worse as snowpack in the mountains continues to decline, action needs to be taken so that stakeholders in the Yakima River Basin can continue operating without having to worry about whether or not they will be able to water their crops or support key commercial and municipal activities. As the nation has witnessed extreme water problems in California, we must be proactive and have a viable plan in place should intense drought persist in Washington State.

The Yakima River Basin Integrated Plan was developed by a diverse group of stakeholders from the region, including farmers and ranchers; irrigation districts; county and city governments; tribes; conservation organizations; and state and federal agencies. The Plan will protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; provide increased operational flexibility to manage instream flows to meet ecological objectives; and improve the reliability of the water supply in the Yakima River Basin for irrigation, municipal supply, and domestic uses.

After years of tough negotiations, the Yakima River Basin Plan is a model of collaboration that offers a solution to give water users more certainty, while also recognizing the concerns of conservationists and the various stakeholders in the Yakima Basin. The authorization of this next crucial phase of the Plan is vital for my District. This legislation will provide the tools and necessary next steps to addressing our water challenges in Central Washington.

I thank my new colleague, Representative SCHRIER, for joining me in introducing this legislation, as well as Senator CANTWELL for her partnership and continued determination to get this effort across the finish line. As this identical legislation currently moves through the Senate in the lands package legislation, I welcome all members to join me in supporting the legislation here in the People's House.

AMERICAN FOOD FOR AMERICAN
SCHOOLS ACT OF 2019

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the "American Food for American Schools Act." I want to thank my colleague and northern California neighbor Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA) for his support as the original cosponsor.

The "American Food for American Schools Act" would strengthen "Buy American" requirements under the National School Lunch Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This will ensure that school districts use federal taxpayer dollars to purchase domestically sourced food products for in-school meals. Our bipartisan bill would also increase transparency so that parents are notified when their schoolchildren are served foreign-produced foods.

Even in northern California and Central Valley farming communities, some school districts use taxpayer dollars to buy imported foods, unnecessarily, without informing parents. In numerous cases, these same imported foods have been recalled due to safety concerns and outbreaks of foodborne diseases, when

those same foods could have been sourced locally in the first place.

Under our bill, school districts would be required to obtain a waiver from the USDA to use any federal taxpayer dollars to purchase foreign-sourced food products. Any such USDA waivers would only be granted if the domestically produced food was cost prohibitive or simply unavailable.

Our bill would also require that school districts notify parents of all foreign-sourced foods served to students, by posting any such waivers obtained from the USDA on the school's website. This would increase public transparency and provide American farmers an opportunity to seek out school districts that need affordable, domestically grown foods. Our nation's schoolchildren should be served nutritious, American-grown foods produced under the strictest food safety standards in the world. That is exactly what our bill would do.

Last year, Congress included "Buy American" language for the National School Lunch Program in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334). This is a good first step in addressing this critical issue for American farmers and school parents. Now Congress needs to finish the job by passing our "American Food for American Schools Act" into law.

Madam Speaker, I hope all members of the House will join me and Congressman LaMalfa in cosponsoring the "American Food for American Schools Act of 2019." I also hope that our bipartisan bill will be included in any future Child Nutrition Reauthorization taken up by the House and Senate.

IN HONOR OF THE 2019 CABARRUS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SMALL
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate DecisionPathHR for receiving the 2019 Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

With North Carolina locations in Charlotte and Concord, DecisionPathHR is one of the finest staffing companies in the country. Their ability to compete with national and international companies has allowed them to create an impressive reputation in the industry, and through their hard work and dedication they exemplify the true meaning of a successful small business.

Led by President and CEO Tom Gibson, DecisionPathHR has quickly risen from their founding in 2012 to leading the industry today. Achieving a number of industry staffing awards over the years, DecisionPathHR has developed through innovation in internal hiring and improvements in their digital marketing and collaboration process. It is clear that the best days for DecisionPathHR are still ahead. They also shared the same office site as my District Office in Concord, so my team has personally witnessed their hard work in action over the years.

DecisionPathHR and its entire team is incredibly deserving of this award and I wish them success as they continue to help folks in

our area find good jobs to provide for their families and our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating DecisionPathHR on receiving the 2019 Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

SALUTING THE HEROIC ACTS OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE PALM
BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT,
PALM BAY, FLORIDA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 2019, the City of Palm Bay will recognize the courage and bravery of the City's law enforcement officers and civilians during their Annual Award's Ceremony to be held at the Dragonfly Farms located at 750 Osmosis Dr. in Palm Bay, FL. Over two-hundred Law Enforcement Officials and Civilian Employees make up The City of Palm Bay's Police Department.

The 166 Sworn Officers, and all the men and women that make up the Palm Bay Police Department lay down their lives on a daily basis as peacekeepers, maintaining law and order for the protection and enhancement of our community. Their motto of Connect, Serve, and Impact speaks of officers connecting with the community as they serve with pride to provide a positive impact to its citizens. Their selfless actions are right and noble. Their actions help keep our community safe.

The Palm Bay Police Department obtained its State of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation status on October 31, 2007, from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. and has successfully reached reaccreditations over the last twelve years.

I am honored to show my support for the law enforcement personnel of the Palm Bay Police Department and their heroic acts. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families.

Among those to be recognized are the Officer of the Year Recipient, Agent Sean Pindar, the Civilian of the Year Recipient, Crime Analyst Dawn Strickland, and the Telecommunicator of the Year, Shift Supervisor Magan Salender.

The Distinguished Service Cross Award Recipients: Corporal Neal Valenti and Officer Christina Martin.

Officers and Civilian Recipients of the Life Saving Award: Officer Matthew Boggess, Officer Thomas Danti, Officer Joseph Moreno, Officer John Neal, Officer William Pennington, and Officer Brandon Williams.

Officers and Civilian Recipients of the Meritorious Service Award: Sergeant Steve Shytte, Agent Sean Pindar (second award), Officer Aaron Arndt, Officer Christopher Jones, Officer Edwin Lutz, Officer Frank Tobar, and Officer Thomas Trotter.

Officers and Civilian Recipients of the Community Service Award: Lieutenant Steve Bland, Lieutenant Lance Fisher, Sergeant Jeffrey Spears, Sergeant Tina Hensel, K9 Officer Byron Patrick, YSU Officer Roy Lavanture, Officer Ryan Austin, and School Crossing Guard George Henderson (second award).