House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Cuéllar).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, May 1, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Henry Cuéllar to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BLOM ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. Beatty) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude and to recognize the career of David P. Blom, who is retiring as president and CEO of OhioHealth after 36 years. David became president of Grant Medical Center, located in downtown Columbus in my district.

Dave set out to make healthcare more accessible to underserved and diverse populations. Providing care to our most at-risk population was a focus of his for 30 years, and it is one that he has never lost. Mr. Speaker, I know that firsthand because I had the opportunity to witness his work.

I am so honored that David is with us today in the gallery.

As president of the entire OhioHealth system for the past 17 years, Dave has molded and elevated OhioHealth’s commitment to all of the communities it serves as the largest hospital system in central Ohio.

Let me tell Members what I have witnessed.

When we talked about our babies and infant mortality, I remember it so well when Dave made that call and said we are going to keep our babies healthy. Thus, he spearheaded Wellness on Wheels’ Women’s Health, or as we like to call it in our home district, WOW, and what a wow it has been.

There is not enough time for me to highlight all the things that this incredible leader has done, but let me fast-forward to my time in Congress. I can remember how and when Congressman Steve Stivers and I talked about the great work, and there was an opportunity when then-Speaker Boehner wanted to revise the whole system for our veterans. Steve Stivers, a veteran, and Dave Blom, caring about our veterans, thus, he was appointed to the Federal commission to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I can remember the exciting day when Dave Blom walked into my office, and it was the same day that we were having the House Chamber’s joint session to hear the Japanese Prime Minister. I remember how excited he was to hear that we were going to host the Japanese Prime Minister, how great it was when he sat front and center in the gallery to hear that message.

The list goes on and on, but today is simply a day to say the two most powerful words that I can say about a great leader, about someone who has changed the healthcare system not just for my district or Columbus, but for the Nation, and those two words are “thank you.”

Thank you for being a leader. Thank you for being a public servant. But most of all, Dave P. Blom, thank you, thank you for being my friend. I salute you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to avoid referencing occupants of the gallery.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BLOM ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Stivers) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dave Blom as he retires after 17 years of service as president and CEO of OhioHealth this July.

While his leadership in the industry is unparalleled, as a veteran, I want to focus on what strikes me about Dave the most, and that is his commitment to improving access to healthcare for those who have served our Nation.

In 2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs was facing rising numbers nationally, and, unfortunately, many veterans were not receiving the good care that they deserved. As a result, the Congressional Commission on Care was formed, a 15-person task force that would make recommendations about how to best serve our Nation’s veterans with healthcare.

I knew Dave’s knowledge of healthcare and longstanding commitment to our Nation’s heroes made him an outstanding candidate for that Commission, and I was proud to work with my colleagues, Representative Beatty and Representative Tiberi, at the time, to secure him an appointment from Speaker Boehner.

In 2015, Dave Blom and the Commission got to work. After over 10 months...
of effort, they ultimately produced 18 reforms for the VA and Congress, including the VA Mission Act, which gives veterans access to local providers outside the VA system and guarantees timely access to care.

Dave was a vitriolic contributor to these reforms, and I know he counts his time on the Commission among the most rewarding experiences of his life.

It is impossible to quantify the impact that he has had on the lives of millions of veterans and their families across this country, but it is certain that his resonance with veterans far into the future.

I am incredibly grateful for Dave’s service and his leadership, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter of life. I am confident that he will remain involved in central Ohio and its communities for a long time to come. I am also fortunate to call him a friend. He is a great leader in healthcare, and he has been a great leader for our country. I think Dave Blum for his service to our veterans, and I congratulate him on an incredible career in healthcare.

STOP ANTI-SEMITISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, our Nation was again stunned by yet another horrific attack on Americans gathered at worship. Saturday’s shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in California came as Jews around the world celebrated the last day of Passover.

One woman, Lori Gilbert Kaye, was murdered in the attack and three others were wounded. I continue to pray for the recovery of those injured in the shooting and offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of the victims.

The latest attack happened exactly 6 months to the day after the assault on worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, which claimed the lives of 11 people, the deadliest attack on the American Jewish community in our history.

These shootings were committed against a backdrop of rising anti-Semitism both here at home and around the world.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2017, anti-Semitic incidents surged in the United States by 57 percent. This represented the largest single-year increase on record and the second-highest number of incidents since the ADL started tracking such data in 1979. In 2018, we saw nearly the same number of reported incidents as in 2017. In recent weeks, there have been other chilling displays of anti-Semitism beyond our borders as well. In February, a Belgian carnival float featured grotesque caricatures of Orthodox Jews standing on piles of money. On Easter Sunday in a small Polish village, adults and children beat and burned an effigy of Judas, but the effigy did not look like a character from Biblical times. Rather, it was a stereotypical Orthodox Jew dressed in ninth-century Hasidic garb.

Feeding into these dangerous incidents, just last week, the international edition of The New York Times published a disgusting anti-Semitic cartoon. The paper subsequently apologized, but the damage was already done. It was an astonishing editorial failure by one of the Nation’s most important papers of record. I was pleased today to see the editorial board of the Times directly address this issue.

Especially at these times of growing anti-Semitism, we must all be extra vigilant, lest we add fuel to the flames of hate and intolerance. Whenever and wherever we see anti-Semitism, we must speak out to stanch it, for what begins as stereotypes and cartoons far too often leads to violence that has claimed so many lives throughout our history.

Our Nation was founded on the idea that every American of every religion has the fundamental right to practice their faith without fear of persecution or violence. This was established in the very first amendment to our Constitution and enshrined in our Bill of Rights. But this right has been shattered far too many times at the synagogues in Poway and Pittsburgh; at an African American church in Charleston, South Carolina; and at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. I will not repeat the Poway shooter’s name or give him the notoriety he sought, but it is clear that he was motivated by white supremacy and anti-Semitism, citing the shootings at the mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in his manifesto.

The sad truth is, far-right white supremacists have been responsible for more terror attacks and deaths in the United States past two decades than any other domestic extremist movement. We need to update our laws to reflect the growing threat of domestic terrorism.

That is why I introduced, with Senator RICHARD DURBIN, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, legislation that would strengthen coordination among the Federal agencies in monitoring radicalized groups and individuals and, hopefully, preventing hateful acts of violence.

This is a necessary first step to help our law enforcement agencies contain the threat, and I urge my colleagues to join me on this legislation.

We also have a duty to responsibly update our gun laws. I am proud that this House voted earlier this year to pass universal background checks and close the Charleston loophole, a loophole that allowed the Emanuel AME shooter to acquire a firearm before the results of his FBI background check were complete.

We need the Senate to stop stonewalling and bring these bills up for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but reflect that this week, the United States is observing Holocaust Remembrance Week and honoring the 6 million Jews and millions of others murdered by the Nazi regime.

In the memory of all of those lost to anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred, we have a moral responsibility to stamp out intolerance and prejudice in our time. Otherwise, as the late Elie Wiesel famously said: “To forget the victims means to kill them a second time.”

HONORING HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 6 million Jewish men, women, and children who were violently murdered for their religious beliefs by the Nazi regime.

This week remembers the victims who lost their lives to this evil regime and honors the survivors who beat the unbelievable odds.

Sonia Warshawski, a Kansan from Overland Park, was a young teenager when Nazi Germany invaded her home in Poland. She was imprisoned, locked inside a Nazi concentration camp, and then later sent to the Auschwitz death camp. There, she saw human hatred in a way many of us today cannot comprehend.

Sonia tells a story of waking up each day suffering from starvation and seeing thousands of bodies stacked where she was imprisoned. She watched as her mother was forced into a gas chamber. And still, through this torture and through it all, she never gave up hope or abandoned her faith.

Sonia will not forget the hatred and horrific injustice that the murderous Nazi regime put her and millions of others through in the name of anti-Semitism and neither will this country.

As the most well-documented genocide in human history, a genocide documented and confirmed by General Eisenhower, the evil and unimaginable torture throughout the Holocaust will forever haunt us. We must never tolerate or overlook anti-Semitism in any form.

In 2017, I had an emotional experience at the Holocaust museum in Israel with my wife. There, we met and heard from many survivors and walked through the Hall of Names honoring the 6 million victims of the Holocaust.

Sadly, we have recently seen the ugly face of anti-Semitism rearing its ugly head. We must continue to fight it with full force. It should make abundantly clear to those with this deep hatred of Jewish people in their heart that this country has zero tolerance for this type of evil.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with the survivors like Sonia and those who lost their lives during the darkest days in the history of our world, and I stand against anti-Semitism.
Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my disappointment at the judicial overreach by my home State's supreme court this past Friday.

In a 6-1 vote, the radical Kansas courts ruled the State's constitution guards the right to abortion. This verdict came in response to a 2015 State law that prohibits performing a dismemberment abortion procedure in the second trimester, except when necessary to save the life of the mother. Doctors who perform this barbaric and painful procedure in the second trimester of pregnancy have challenged the law.

As someone who has dedicated my career to bringing life into this world and has delivered 5,000 babies in my home State of Kansas, please forgive me and allow me to be graphic for just a moment.

This horrid procedure literally tears the live baby apart limb by limb in the womb and then evacuate the dismembered baby body parts one at a time from the uterus. Then the person who performs the procedure pieces these parts back together to make sure they have removed the entire baby. This very pain-capable baby literally bleeds to death to end its life.

Sadly, the method is used today in 95 percent of second trimester abortions, even though the child's heart is beating and the baby is breathing and, as I said earlier, is quite capable of feeling pain. It is despicable, and this procedure should be banned nationwide.

It sickens me to the core that the Kansas Supreme Court violated the sanctity of life and voted to deny the rights of the unborn in our State.

Today, I call upon our State legislators to quickly pass a constitutional amendment that overrules and protects these precious babies.

Many of us have fought our whole life to defend the unborn. Now, we must all fight harder than ever. I ask for you to fight alongside me.

HONORING REV. DR. CHARLES E. BOOTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I know that Representative Joyce Beatty would join me today in what I am about to say.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and a distinguished man of God, the Reverend Dr. Charles E. Booth. Dr. Booth, a true local hero, was born on this earthy plain on Saturday, March 23, 2019, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Dr. Booth’s life and mine moved along many of the same paths. Through those shared experiences, we developed a deep personal bond. He was born in my hometown of Baltimore, Maryland, on February 4, 1947, to Hazel Willis Booth and William W. Booth. He attended the same high school as I did, Baltimore City College High School in Baltimore. We also attended the same college, Howard University.

Dr. Booth went on to earn a master’s of divinity degree from Eastern Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He then earned a doctorate of ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. As a testament to his commitment to Christian education, Dr. Booth served as a member of the board of trustees of that institution from 2011 until his recent passing.

At the age of 23, Dr. Booth pastored his first church, St. Paul’s Baptist Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania. In 1978, he became pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, where he remained the faithful leader for 41 years.

Dr. Booth proudly made Columbus his home, but he never forgot his roots. He visited Baltimore often to preach at various churches and spend time with family and friends. In fact, he preached revival services in my own church, the New Psalmist Baptist Church, where Dr. Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., is the pastor. When I was not in Washington, I was at church to listen to his prolific sermons.

As the son of two preachers, I understand the power of the preached word, and Dr. Booth could deliver like none other. They often called him a preaching machine. He had a commanding presence in the pulpit with his towering stature and baritone voice. He studied the Bible voraciously and had the uncanny ability to make Biblical text relevant to the issues we face today in our daily lives. At a time when people are turning away from traditional religion, Dr. Booth made Christianity accessible and inspired people to deepen their faith.

Dr. Booth was a pastor’s pastor. He traveled the country to preach the gospel, and he was tremendously respected by his peers. He found joy in mentoring young preachers and made time to listen to their concerns and offer his counsel.

In 2011, Dr. Booth founded the Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference, which focuses on the tenets of keeping passion in one’s preaching. Christ-centered preaching in contemporary life, building relationships with preachers, and teaching the preacher’s devotional life, and remaining true to the sermonic ingredients of information and inspiration. Education was central to Dr. Booth’s life. Not only was he continually learning, he encouraged others to use education as a key to open doors of opportunity. In 1994, he founded the Gloria S. Friend Academy, a fully accredited elementary school at his church that emphasized academic excellence and cultural enrichment centered on African American history. Dr. Booth also authored several books focused on Christian education.

A pillar in his community, Dr. Booth used his position as a faith leader to be a strong voice for the voiceless. He worked tirelessly to help create solutions to issues such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and access to quality healthcare.

I mourn the loss of my friend. I am comforted by the inspiring legacy he leaves for all of us. In the New Testament book of Titus, the Apostle Paul writes: “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech.”

Dr. Booth lived this creed. Through his example, he encouraged everyone he encountered to do the same.

He leaves to mourn his wonderful wife, Crystal. He was a tremendous blessing to his family, his church, his Nation, and, indeed, the world.

He will be sorely missed, but we give great thanks that God allowed our lives to eclipse with his.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to recognize an extraordinary educator in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is making a difference in the lives of our community’s young people.

George Daka, a U.S. history teacher at Bensalem High School, was recently selected as an honoree for the 13th annual Teacher of the Year Awards. Later this month, George will receive his award at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia alongside 11 other outstanding educators from Pennsylvania and Delaware.

George sees his job as more than just teaching his students about history, and he seeks to inspire them about our Nation’s rich traditions. We applaud George on this well-deserved award, and we wish him and his family all the best.

We would also like to thank Kathryn Hinshaw, an English teacher at Bensalem High School, for nominating George for this well-deserved honor.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARJORIE BURTIS

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of a Bucks County resident who is sharing her talent and creativity with others.

Last month, Langhorne resident Marjorie Burtis celebrated her incredible milestone with more than 100 family members and friends.

This was no ordinary birthday celebration, however. It also served as the unveiling of Marjorie’s new art exhibit at the Bucks County Visitor Center.

Despite her many life experiences, Marjorie discovered her passion for watercolor painting merely 12 years ago after taking an art class. Since that
Mr. Speaker, we wish Marjorie a very happy belated 100th birthday, and we congratulate her on this exhibit.

We thank Marijorie for her dedication all these years who has stood beside him and been a support through all of his life.

In 2009 and 2010, more steps were taken. In order to make a major breakthrough, we will be voting on this week. H.R. 9 reaffirms the United States’ commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is long past time that we do more to fight climate change.

Mr. Hodnett’s passion was with his family and his community. For him, the key to a successful business was having a wife of 75 years who had known him and believed in him. He also mentored and advised countless young people, helping them to find their own paths through life.

I am proud to have had Mr. Hodnett spend so much of his life in the First Congressional District of Georgia. His family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this time.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, Utahns believe in being good stewards of our planet, leaving the Earth better than we found it. When I served as the mayor of Provo, we pursued policies to construct LEAD-certified buildings, create more environmentally friendly transit options, and educate our residents on how they can be better stewards of the environment. We considered these efforts to be meaningful steps in the right direction.

But, imagine my surprise when I arrived in Congress and learned of the dangerous winner-take-all system of governing that has overtaken Washington, especially on issues impacting the environment.

Instead of a pragmatic approach to a positive change through small and consistent consensus, an all-or-nothing approach dominates the debate and villainizes all but the most extreme positions.

Congress is a place where ideological purity is rewarded more than results. It is easy to vote on a messaging bill that the sponsor knows will never be passed into law and then go home and take the applause from the like-minded constituents, but it is difficult to leave the echo chambers and work across the aisle with individuals who have different backgrounds than yourself and find a common ground.

The most obvious example of this is the climate change debate in our country where, today, my Democratic colleagues have taken the easy path. The
I have heard over and over that the U.S. must remain in the Paris Agreement to show leadership. And I ask you: What kind of leadership leads to double-digit unemployment in rural America but lets China off the hook? I agree that America must continue to show leadership, but let's focus on leadership that goes back to the core principles of innovation, conservation, adaptation, and preparation. This bill fails to do any of that.

Let's continue leading the world and bettering our environment, but let's not pretend that H.R. 9 is a silver bullet to our evolving world. I hope that we can stop with the easy, cheap rhetoric that offers false promises and divides our country even further and focus on those things that make meaningful change.

HONORING RALPH VANNI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Ralph Vanni, the senior House audio technician who retired earlier this month.

For 34 years, Ralph has been the man behind this microphone and every microphone in this Chamber. When he took his job as the House technician in 1985, Ralph was the son of Capitol Hill. At the age of 16, he landed an internship with the then-Senate majority leader.

After two more internships and graduating college, Ralph had a hand in nearly every corner of the Capitol building, from doorkeeper for the Sergeant at Arms to working in the Senate Cloakroom.

In his most recent role, Ralph saw six Presidents give their State of the Union speeches, but the day he has said he will never forget is running audio from that perch right up there for Pope Francis' address to this Chamber in 2015.

I remember meeting Ralph on my first day as a newly elected Member of Congress during orientation in 2013. With the Speaker's permission, we could take photos on the House floor that day, and I took a minute to take one with Ralph and some of his team. They are among the best in the business, and I am proud to have Ralph as a member of this team.

Ralph became my friend that day and has been my friend for the last 6½ years. I have had the chance to serve in this great institution. I wish him the best in his retirement. And I want to thank him personally, on behalf of every Member of Congress who stands behind any microphone in this institution.

Ralph made us sound better, and we appreciate him for doing that. I wish him good luck in his retirement and thank him for all his years of service. I am going to miss Ralph, looking up in that perch, but I am going to get to know the folks who have replaced him so well. He has led a great generation into that seat to replace him now. I thank Ralph Vanni.

SOLITO, SOLITA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, innocent children shouldn’t pay the price for the President’s cruel immigration agenda. Steamrolling the facts and the law, he has implemented policy after failed policy, playing catch and release with his own cabinet.

As the President ratchets up his threats to close the border and cut aid to Central America, thousands of migrants are fleeing their home countries to seek refuge in the United States. I recently met with the editors of the book “Solito, Solita”—a collection of oral histories that tells the stories of young refugees in their own words. I rise today to read excerpts from one of them, Gabriel Mendez.

His story begins in a poor, dangerous neighborhood in the capital of Honduras. He says:

When I was just a boy of 7, my cousins raped me for a long time—for a year. They raped me at the river, where they collected water—and in my own home.

. . . Some of my fellow students who belonged to the maras took weapons to school. I remember this person who was bringing weapons to school. I was afraid of them. They also wanted me to bring drugs into school. I didn’t want to do it, so I left that school. Now the maras were looking for me—to kill me. They were asking my neighbors if they knew me.

When Gabriel was 14, he convinced his mother, who was living in San Francisco, to pay a coyote $1,000 to bring him to the United States. Gabriel recounted the horrors he encountered along the way.

. . . they kept us locked in a house with eight other people for a week. We kept moving. Many days passed without eating or drinking water.

We were taken to the river, where there was a raft. We crossed the river into the United States and moved to a safe house. We spent 4 nights in the desert, including the night of my 15th birthday.

. . . We came upon another group of people who’d been traveling 2 days ahead of us. A young man, under 18, had perished from exposure and lack of water and food. I got water from some barbed wire in the desert. The coyote kicked me, ripping my flesh to set me free.

. . . We got to Los Angeles on December 17, 2013. If we didn’t pay more money, they threatened to cut off our heads and all kinds of horrible things. My mom said she’d give them another $50, and they paled another 8 people in a van and brought us to San Francisco.

In San Francisco, Gabriel feared for years he would be sent back to Honduras. With the support of his mother and an attorney, he was eventually granted asylum.

Now he is a student at the University of California at Berkeley, with dreams of becoming a lawyer himself.
In an essay, he wrote:
My experience of childhood sexual and domestic abuse has shaped my dreams to become a lawyer, to defend victims and fight for children’s rights around the world. My immigration lawyer was a role model for me because she listened to my experiences. I want to continue studying to help children feel protected by the law. . .

If we want to understand the why behind mass migration, we need to listen and learn from these stories.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to uplift these voices and use them to fix a broken immigration system. We must insist on due process for asylum seekers; we must insist on humane treatment of our families; and we must insist on aid to Central America to stem the drivers of migration.

Together, we can prevent more children from risking their lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5(c) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today. Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1200

AFTER RECESS
The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER
Reverend Dr. Andrew Chaney, First and Calvary Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before Your throne of grace and salvation in prayer for the men and women of this Congress and their families to be blessed with Your peace and protection.

Give them strength to rely upon Your faithfulness, always serving others with compassion.

Give them strength to be a rock and a mighty fortress when feeling crushed by an avalanche of criticism.

Give them strength to collaborate and spur each other on toward good works. As iron sharpens iron, may they sharpen one another.

Give them strength to display courage with the power of persistence in advancing American ideals, their feet closely following Your steps without turning aside. For You are their guide, their moral compass. You are the way, the truth, and the life.

Secure their leadership in Your divine will, making them an instrument of Your blessing for every American, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journals of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. Higgins) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. ANDREW CHANEY
The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Long) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was a previous question (Mr. Long). Mr. Speaker, today I have the honor of introducing my friend, the Reverend Dr. Andrew Chaney, along with his wife, Christine, and my wife, Barbara, in the gallery, and the Hargis family from Springfield, Missouri, members of the First and Calvary Church.

Reverend Chaney is a third-generation minister. Reverend Chaney serves as the senior minister at the historic First and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri, a church that is a very special place for my family. Reverend Chaney serves as an important spiritual voice for us and the Springfield community.

Congress has a longstanding tradition of beginning each day in prayer. I am privileged and honored to have the opportunity to welcome Reverend Dr. Andrew Chaney to the people’s House as he opened today’s session in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.

PAYING THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN STEM
(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, is an industry comprised of physicists, chemical and biomedical engineers, and professionals creating and developing innovative technologies.

Demand for workers in these fields is high, but women remain underrepresented, especially in engineering and computer sciences. According to a study by the National Girls Collaborative, women make up nearly 50 percent of the overall workforce but less than 30 percent of careers in STEM.

Women have made tremendous strides in this field over the last few decades, but women’s underrepresentation in STEM limits discoveries and holds back our economy. Today I want to tell Members about an outstanding woman in my district who is paving the way for women in STEM.

Aria Soha from Batavia, Illinois, works as the installation coordinator for the Short-Baseline Neutrino Program at Fermi National Laboratory. Aria was an outstanding student in math throughout school and chose to major in physics her second year of college at Carnegie Mellon University.

In college, Aria worked relentlessly to find research opportunities and got the chance to build microwave telescopes to explore high-energy radio waves that are hard to observe from the ground. After graduating, Aria accepted a job at Fermi Lab, a world-class research facility we are proud of in the 14th District.

There are so many hidden figures in STEM, and I am proud to shine a bright light on the strong, smart women in the 14th District leading and making a difference in our community.

REMEMBERING FORMER SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR
(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Senator Lugar served the State of Indiana for 36 years and was a leading voice on issues at home and abroad.

Senator Lugar was a man of strong integrity who stood by what he believed in, and Senator Lugar always was willing to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reach a shared goal: bipartisanship.

In 2003, the State Department established a Kennedy-Lugar YES Abroad program, named for Senator Lugar and Senator Ted Kennedy. The program provides scholarships for students from the United States and countries with significant Muslim populations to spend 1 year in the other’s country. It fosters the same goals that Senator Lugar dedicated his life to achieving: understanding, collaboration, and friendship with the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator Lugar for his legendary service. Senator Lugar leaves a long record of legislative accomplishments. I offer my condolences to his family.

May Senator Lugar rest in peace, and may we learn from the example that he set.
MADTOWN ROBOTICS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Madera High School's robotics team for being crowned the world champions.

They are the home of the Coyotes, and this hardworking group of 15 students from my district, otherwise known as MadTown Robotics, beat out more than 400 teams not only throughout the country, but throughout the world, in a competition in Houston, Texas, in the last week. They worked long hours on this project, with each student member putting in more than 200 hours, including weekends.

The community celebrated their success last weekend with a parade through Madera and a rally at the school gym, which I participated in. I am exceptionally proud of these students, their teachers, and the faculty for their accomplishments.

Madera is a wonderful, growing area, which shows that the San Joaquin Valley is not only a world leader in agriculture, but also in innovation, for future generations across our country. Congratulations, Madera High School. Go, Coyotes.

MAY 1 IS THE DEADLINE FOR DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we have failed our military and all the victims of 2018 disasters across the country.

On October 10, Tyndall Air Force Base took a direct hit from a category 5 hurricane. Over 6 months later, no disaster funding has been provided. Air Force Secretary Wilson warned us that if she did not receive supplemental funding by May 1, all new work on Tyndall Air Force Base would stop. This delays the return of base operations, impacts flight operations throughout the Air Force, and forces our airmen to work in degraded facilities.

Mr. Speaker, May 1 has come, and I stand before you today because we have failed to deliver funding, and now our military readiness is suffering. We only have until May 15 to provide funding to the Air Force before they start cutting airplane repairs.

I urge the leadership of the House and the Senate to pass a clean disaster supplemental immediately. It is necessary, and it is the right thing to do.

BUILDING BUFFALO'S WATERFRONT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, a $50 million Federal investment to create a parkway opened access to Buffalo's outer harbor waterfront 10 years ago. That parkway was the catalyst for new development that started with Gallagher Beach: a new State park, William Perry, and new parkland on the former NFTA property from terminal A and B to the Seaway Pier and beyond.

This Thursday, the Canal Corporation will announce more than $100 million in new development to open up 180 acres and improve access to the outer harbor waterfront of Buffalo. More Buffalo waterfront development is coming, development to move Buffalo forward with a new, exciting waterfront of possibilities.

MICROSOFT TECHSPARK

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some great news for the residents of my district, the Fifth District of Virginia. Southern Virginia was selected as Microsoft's newest TechSpark community. The goal of the TechSpark program is to accelerate economic growth through expanding broadband connectivity, career pathways in digital transformation.

This $5 million investment has a potential to be a game changer for southern Virginia, and this project partners perfectly with the work I have been doing in Congress providing rural broadband and increasing economic opportunities in Southside Virginia.

Private investment is always encouraged and preferred, but we also need to use private-public partnerships to expand access to broadband.

Communities in my district are in desperate need of broadband access, and this investment in South Boston will be an example of how we can encourage innovation and spur economic growth that will help families around this country.

MUELLER REPORT

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise as we mark National Minority Health Month, and I urge my colleagues to stand with one voice as we demand universal healthcare coverage for every American, not as a privilege, but as a human right.

Your healthcare should not depend on your ZIP Code. But for far too many Americans, healthcare disparities mean higher rates of chronic illness, less access to quality care, and shorter life spans.

In the U.S. in 2019, African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans still suffer from much higher rates of diabetes, cancer, heart disease, stroke, substance abuse, infant mortality, low birth weight, HIV, and AIDS.

These deadly disparities are rooted in economic injustice, racism, and our failure, as a nation, to value and protect the health and well-being of every American equally.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support full funding for lifesaving research, federally qualified health centers, and public health programs that promote prevention and healthy lifestyles.

MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

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REACH EVERY VETERAN IN CRISIS

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because our Nation is facing a crisis. Each day, 20 veterans take their own lives. That is over 7,000 veterans a year, more than the number of U.S. soldiers we lost in the entire Iraq war.

We have a moral responsibility to do more to protect those who have so courageously put their lives on the line to defend our country.

Recently, it was revealed that the Veterans Administration spent only $1.5 million of its $6.2 million budget toward suicide prevention media outreach in fiscal year 2018.
That is why I have introduced legislation called the Reach Every Veteran in Crisis Act, to ensure those resources are used effectively and efficiently to provide veterans with the support services they need and so richly deserve.

It is my hope that this legislation will provide veterans during their time of need and, hopefully, save the lives of our Nation’s heroes.

I encourage any veteran who is facing crisis or anyone who is concerned about a loved one to call the Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255.

PLIGHT OF PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. GARCIA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, at a hearing examining Puerto Rico’s Financial Oversight Board, I plan to stand strong with the Puerto Rican families I represent and demand to hear the board’s plan for reversing Puerto Rico’s plight.

At a time that families are leaving the island, schools are closing, and homes and communities destroyed by Hurricane Maria still have not been rebuilt, the fiscal board is forcing Puerto Ricans to sacrifice pensions, wages, and crucial government services.

People are hungry, using plastic tarps as roofs, and living without electricity or heat. I toured the devastated areas earlier this year and met with families in my district whose relatives are still suffering last week.

Well over a year after Maria, less than 20 percent of the aid that the fiscal board anticipated has been delivered.

How can Puerto Rico recover while its oversight board continues to squeeze the island and President Trump continues to block disaster aid and food stamps?

Tomorrow, I will stand with our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico and demand answers to these questions.

FOUR PILLARS FOR AN INFRASTRUCTURE DEAL

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats have an opportunity to create substantive, innovative, and cost-effective legislation that will bring jobs and economic growth to America through an infrastructure bill.

As co-chair of the New Democratic Coalition’s Infrastructure Task Force, we are actively drafting policy priorities to be considered for a House infrastructure bill. It is important to have Americans of all sectors’ voices as we do this, and last week the infrastructure listening sessions were hosted by Representatives COLIN ALLRED and MARC VEASEY in Dallas and JOE CUNNINGHAM in Charleston.

New Democrats are intensely focused on receiving and implementing forward-looking and practical ideas to help everyday Americans use infrastructure that supports job creation and advancement, multiple forms of transportation, policy proposals to mitigate climate change, and streamline bureaucracy.

It is my hope that the President and Republicans will join us as we focus on four pillars for an infrastructure deal: modernize America’s infrastructure and seek new revenue, create an infrastructure bank to finance the project, create incentives for communities most in need to finance those projects through grant programs, and encourage innovation and reform through responsible regulatory streamlining and the utilization of public-private partnerships that work.

Building and renovating roads, bridges, ports, greener schools and hospitals, and broadband all need the support of Congress to advance the flow of America’s goods and services. It is what we need to do to keep our dominance in the economy.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS OUR PRESENT

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

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Speaker, climate change isn’t a question of if or even when. Climate change is not our future. It is our present.

Kids with asthma are finding it harder and harder to breathe as they walk to school or to the playground. Raging fires have reduced whole communities to ash in my home State of California. Rising seas threaten to swallow family homes and broadlands all need the support of Congress to advance the flow of America’s goods and services.

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CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, there is no denying it, climate change is real, and Congress has a moral obligation to act.

The communities that I represent in Washington State are already experiencing the impacts. Coastal Tribes are in the process of trying to move to higher ground. Changing ocean chemistry is impacting our marine life and the industries that depend on it.

The Department of Defense has called it a threat multiplier that makes our world less safe.

And, today, Congress will take an important, tangible step toward addressing climate change by passing the Climate Action Now Act, a bill that reaffirms America’s commitment to the Paris climate agreement and directs the administration to develop a comprehensive plan to meet the significant emission reductions that we as a Nation, and nearly every Nation in the world, committed to back in 2015.

We know that making progress is not only about protecting our environment, but also about protecting our economic interests and our national security.

The American people are not just demanding action, but leadership, to counter the impacts of climate change.

This legislation is an important first step toward meeting our long-term carbon emission goals, and I am proud to cosponsor it and vote in favor of it.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Costa) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:


Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Madam Speaker:

Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(b) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 30, 2019, at 4:33 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1229.

With respect, I am,

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Johnson.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 9, CLIMATE ACTION NOW ACT

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 329 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 329
Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of H.R. 9 to direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes.

The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 90 minutes, with the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce making 30 amendments in order.

The bill shall be considered as ordered on the bill and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the time except one motion to amend the previous question to final passage with- or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Ted Lieu of California). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentle- woman from Arizona (Mrs. Lesko), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consider- ation of this resolution, all time yield- ed is for the purpose of debate only.

General Debate

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. E. J. McMorris Rodgers of Washington). There is objection to the request of the gentle- man from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 329. It provides for the consideration of H.R. 9 under a structured rule that makes 30 amendments in order.

It also provides for 90 minutes of general debate, with the chair and the ranking minority member of the Com- mittee on Foreign Affairs controlling 60 minutes, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce controlling 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the measure we are con- sidering today makes clear that under this Democratic majority science is once again respected here in the House of Representatives, that facts matter. And that’s good news that fossil fuel lobby is not going to rule the day, be- cause there is no debate on our side about something as basic as climate change.

The evidence is overwhelming. It is happening. Mr. Speaker, and human beings are playing a defining role.

Now, you don’t have to take my word for it. You can ask virtually any sci- entist working in the field today, be- cause 97 percent of all climate sci- entists agree that it is happening—97 percent.

There is a United Nations body charged with looking at the science here called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Do you know what it has found? That the evidence is unequivocal.

The facts are as clear as day.

But you don’t even need to read the report to know that something is hap- pening here. Just look out your win- dow. Once-in-a-generation hurricanes are becoming commonplace; record- breaking storms are becoming the norm; and drastic temperature swings are now just the way it is.

My district is home to more than 1,800 farms, and I visit with farmers often. Climate change isn’t just an issue on their minds; it is sometimes the top issue on their minds when they are asked about the challenges that they face.

These farmers have told me about how heat waves disrupt what was once a reliable growing season and how un- expected frosts have completely wiped out their crops. Rainfall that once ran like clockwork has given way to droughts that could wipe out their entire profits.

They don’t question what is going on. They are not debating the science of whether climate change is real. They know. They know. □ 1230

They can see it, seemingly every day as it impacts their livelihoods. I wish the Republicans took climate change as seriously. But instead of treating it as a threat, they treat it as a punch line.

A Republican Senator once brought a snowball onto the Senate floor, trying to prove that climate change isn’t real because it still snows sometimes. You can’t make this stuff up.

Just the other day, President Trump mocked clean energy by suggesting that windmills cause cancer. Are you kidding me? That is the President of the United States.

I won’t pretend to know what goes on in the President’s head, but I know this: His announcement in June 2017 that he would be pulling the United States out of the climate agree- ment was indefensible.

This agreement set an ambitious goal of keeping warming below 2 degrees Celsius and established binding com- mitments for countries to meet to re- duce emissions. It recognized climate change is a global problem that re- quires a global solution.

If the President gets his way and ac- tually withdraws the United States, we would stand alone as one of the only nations in the world not to be part of it. Even Syria, a nation embroiled in war, announced that it would sign on.

Thankfully, we are not out of it yet, but we could be starting as early as 2020.

H.R. 9 would ensure the President wouldn’t get his way by requiring him to develop a plan to meet our commit- ments under the Paris Agreement.

It is called the Climate Action Now Act because we can’t wait, Mr. Speaker. Climate change isn’t some far-off threat. It is not a problem for our great-grandchildren or even our grand- children to solve. It is our problem. It is here today, impacting our Nation and our future.

It is not just about the weather. Cli- mate change also negatively impacts public health and our national secu- rity. Experts have even developed a new term to describe those displaced by its destructive impacts, “American climate refugees.”

This is not the time for handwringing or indecisiveness and not the time to let the fossil fuel industry that funds some campaigns outweigh the facts. It is certain- ly not the time for more stunts or snowballs on the floor.

This is the time to act boldly, to lis- ten to what the scientists are telling us, and to protect our planet for future generations. That is what H.R. 9 is all about.
I ask my colleagues to let the facts rule the day once again in the people’s House of Representatives. Let’s support this rule and the underlying legislation and send an undeniable message that, under this majority, we value science and recognize the urgent need to act on climate change.

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

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves on the floor, yet again, to consider a rule for a piece of legislation that is nothing more than another messaging bill against the President of the United States.

This new Democratic majority has spent nearly 20 percent—20 percent—of the time debating bills on the floor that are nonbinding messaging pieces of legislation. H.R. 9 is just another example of the majority’s intent on messaging against the President and the lack of any true agenda for the American people.

The reality is that we all want clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. Who doesn’t? However, this bill isn’t the solution.

Addressing environmental policy should not include extreme policies like the Green New Deal, nor should it involve binding ourselves to international agreements that we knew would have a meaningful impact on American jobs and the economy. When they argued this, they point to States like California, with their renewable energy mandates.

However, California finds itself in the precarious situation where it actually pays Arizona to take their energy. This is not good energy or economic policy. If Democrats were serious about solving big problems for the American people, they would partner and work across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions that they knew would have a chance to pass through the Senate and be signed by the President.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Before I yield to the gentleman from Texas, let me make a couple of points.

First of all, just so the Record is clear, under President Trump’s policies, which are now taking effect and are reversing some of the advances that we made under previous administrations, basically, these policies have consequences. In 2018, our emissions rose by 3.4 percent. We are going in the wrong direction.

When the gentlewoman talks about all these other alternative energy sources that are clean and green that my Republican friends support, she neglects to point out that this President hasn’t seen a fossil fuel that he hasn’t classified as ‘clean’. He wants to go back and invest more in coal, which is hard to believe, given all the scientific evidence that exists about the dangers of coal for our atmosphere.

There is no question where this President is coming from. He doesn’t believe in climate change, and that is what is so shocking, that the whole world, the scientific community all over the world, has warned us time and time again that this is a real problem, and we can afford it, he doesn’t believe it. It is stunning, that is what we are dealing with.

Basically, this is an attempt to try to get us back on the right track, to take this problem, which is already having significant negative consequences for our country, and do something about it.

It is time to come together and tell the President, who doesn’t believe in science, that science is real, that it is something we ought to take seriously, and that we ought to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).
Madam Speaker, I appreciate the words from our distinguished minority whip, but I would point out that the cost of climate inaction will far outweigh the cost associated with acting now.

According to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, by 2090, lost wages will reach $155 billion, mortality from extreme temperatures will surpass $140 billion, and coastal property damage will approach $120 billion. All told, the U.S. economy could lose more than 10% of its GDP under the worst-case scenario.

So people can deny that this is a problem all they want, but they do so at great economic risk for our country and for other economies around the world.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Act.

Washington’s First District is home to some of our Nation’s most beautiful parks, mountains, and waterways, and we are already seeing the consequences of climate change.

Snowpack in the north Cascades is currently 20 to 40 percent below normal amounts; last year, wildfires ravaged the West Coast, resulting in poor air quality and public health issues; Washington State just had the second driest March on record, and there is a greater likelihood of more fires through the summer.

This is why Congress must take action and pass H.R. 9. We need to be moving forward, not backward.

President Trump’s statement of intent to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement is a grave mistake that would have lasting effects on our planet and our economy.

In H.R. 9 is an important step forward, ensuring the United States upholds our commitments under the agreement and leads in the green economy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), my good friend and the ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I thank my very good friend, Mrs. LESKO, for yielding.

Well, we are here again, Madam Speaker, on yet another bill that isn’t going to pass the Senate, isn’t going to become law, and doesn’t really do anything. As they have done over and over again over the past few months, my Democratic friends seem content to bring up virtue-signaling messaging bills as a substitute for passing real bipartisan legislation to solve problems facing the American people.

Today’s bill purports to force the President to return the United States to the Paris Agreement on climate change, never mind that he hasn’t actually pulled the United States from that agreement yet, nor can he until the day after the next Presidential election in 2020. But on that day, to be fair, I think he will.

Day one, I think he will. He can’t give away to countries like China and India, who are increasing carbon emissions dramatically higher than us. and the countries in Europe are in compliance with the unachievable targets set in the Paris accord again over the past few months, my good chairman, Mr. MCGOVERN, so it is unfortunate that this rule misses the opportunity to have robust debate on ideas from both sides of the aisle.

At the Rules Committee Monday night, 91 amendments were proposed and considered. Of those, 45 were proposed by Democrats, 44 by Republicans, and 2 were bipartisan. Of the 44 Republican amendments, 35 had no points of order against them or any parliamentary issues, yet when the final rule was proposed and passed out of committee, it is in order 30 amendments: 1 bipartisan amendment, 25 Democratic amendments, and just 3 Republican amendments.

Is that really how the majority wants to operate going forward, 58 percent of the Democratic amendments allowed to come to the floor, but just 6 percent of the Republican amendments and just 8 percent without points of order? That is an abysmal result.

For example, my good friend RODNEY Davis of Illinois proposed an amendment that simply would have noted that the 2018 farm bill is relevant to achieving the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and would have required the President to add the Committee on Agriculture to any reports he sends on this topic to the Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce Committees. This is a commonsense amendment that takes into account the role agriculture can play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, yet the amendment was blocked from consideration on the floor.

What is the harm, I ask, in debating that amendment here on the floor and
Madam Speaker, let me just say to my ranking member, whom I have great respect for, that I think we always need to figure out a way to do better and to be more accommodating, and I will continue to work with him to try to do that. But I will point out for the record that the committee has made in order 30 amendments, a total of 31 pages of amendments on a 6-page bill.

I think we have a long way to go to achieve the record of closed rules that we have had. I think all over 100 closed rules. That broke, I think, every closed rule record in history. We certainly don’t want to get there, but we need to continue to figure out ways we can be more accommodating, and he has my word that I will do that.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1/4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. Pingree).

Ms. Pingree. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. McGovern for his good work and for yielding.

Greenhouse gas emissions did not happen in isolation. They have widespread impact and will not be curbed without global coordination. The Obama administration understood that fact, and they moved America into an international compact to curb emissions on a global scale.

When the Trump administration retreated from the Paris accord last year, it meant the effects of climate change would only get worse in my home State of Maine. In Maine, climate change isn’t an abstraction; it is a very real threat to our economy and to our way of life.

I recently met with farmers in my State who told me climate change is here now and we need real solutions to adapt to and to mitigate.

I met with climate scientists from the University of Maine who told me invasive species that threaten the livelihoods of our foresters. I also met with shellfish growers and harvesters who are grappling with the effects of ocean acidification, of extreme weather events, and of the very real fact that the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 95 percent of the Earth’s other waters.

This is real, and I don’t want my grandchildren looking back and saying: ‘Why didn’t Congress fix the problem when they got the chance?’

H.R. 9 is the first piece of positive climate change legislation to receive a vote in the House in years. The bill will reaffirm America’s commitment to fighting climate change and will put this Congress on a course to take on the climate crisis before it is too late.

Mrs. Lesko. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Newhouse), my good friend.

Mr. Newhouse. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule that is before us today. As Democrats in the House bring forward legislation in the name of supporting the environment and climate, I would like to talk a little bit about the process.

My good friend Chairman McGovern and the Democratic majority of the Rules Committee received a total of 91 amendments submitted for consideration on the legislation that we have before us, and as you just heard from Mr. Cole, of the 45 Democratic amendments, more than half were made in order. Out of the 44 Republican amendments submitted for consideration, only 3—let me repeat that—3 of those were made in order.

Myself, I offered 2 of those 44 amendments. They were noncontroversial. They were ruled germane to the legislation before us by the House Parliamentarian, and all they did, simply, was recognize the clean, renewable benefits of hydropower and the clean emissions-free benefits of nuclear power, but Chairman McGovern and his committee refused to allow this recognition.

So we have got to ask ourselves, Madam Speaker: Why? Why, if we are supposedly here to debate policy affecting our environment and our climate, why would they not want to discuss the clean energy that comes from hydroelectric dams like those in my district along the Columbia and Snake Rivers?

Why would they not want to discuss the emissions-free energy produced by nuclear power plants like the Columbia Generating Station in my district in central Washington.

It is because the efforts put forward by Democrats in the House, be it the flawed Paris agreement legislation that is before us or the radical Green New Deal proposal—which, I might add, has no mention of hydropower and actually calls for the end of nuclear power in our Nation—have nothing to do with science and everything to do with politics.

The majority party, the Democrats, with these proposals, is more focused on pushing a mandated top-down system that will inevitably do nothing to help our environment.

What we should be doing, and what my Republican colleagues continue to do, is focusing on the free market approach spurred by collaboration and innovation between our national laboratories, research universities, Federal partners, and the private sector.

Madam Speaker, I would say to my friend Mr. McGovern that, when Republicans were in the majority, we made a conscientious effort on the Rules Committee to provide equitable treatment of amendments offered to legislation. With the process before us today, it is disappointing to see the chairman not following in that good faith effort, and I would urge a “no” vote.
Mr. McGovern. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, oh my God, just listening to the gentleman from Washington State give his remarks. He was on the Rules Committee when the Republican majority was in charge last time and voted for a record number of 103 closed rules. That meant that not a single amendment, Republican or Democrat, could be made in order. Never once, never once, did I hear him express reservations about the historic closed process that the Republicans embraced.

And as far as his amendment goes, as the gentleman knows, the Paris climate agreement operates under the theory that parties should be able to satisfy their compliance plans any way they choose. There are neither preferred nor prohibited ways to reduce emissions. Since the Paris Agreement is fuel and technology neutral, we think this bill should be treated. But I just find it hard to sit here and to listen with any level of seriousness to the gentleman’s complaints. When he was on the Rules Committee, they broke every record in the history of Congress being the most closed Congress in the history of our country. Can we do better? Yes, we can, and we should do better.

But I will remind the gentleman, again, that there were 30 pages of amendments made in order on a 6-page bill, a bill, by the way, that the gentlewoman, Mrs. Lesko, said is not a serious bill anyway. So, I am not quite sure what the messaging is here: that it is not serious or that it is serious enough where we need to have more amendments. I can’t quite figure their logic out here.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. Norton).

Ms. Norton. Madam Speaker. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his important work on this urgent bill.

It is too late to overstate the urgency of the climate crisis. It has already assumed emergency status in parts of the world, including parts of States like Florida.

The threatened withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris climate accord should be considered an international crime. The United States is the only nation to threaten to withdraw from the agreement, but others, such as Brazil, seem willing to follow our lead.

I am encouraged, though, that in our country, even though we have record polarization, Americans overwhelmingly want the United States to remain in the agreement. The absurdity of sealing our own fate by faking blindness to the climate catastrophe is not lost on the American people we represent. This is the most serious issue that we face as the United States in our history. We must vote for the life, not the end of the planet.

Mr. McGovern. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelly), my good friend. Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 9. Madam Speaker, if we are really going to speak about what makes sense, what doesn’t make sense, or what does have a relevance, let’s not forget about the burden of the cost of what we are talking about. It is hardworking Americans.

I find it interesting that we talk about: Well, do you know what, you guys did stuff the last time that prevented us from getting amendments in, so we are following along with the same thing. I have great respect for the chairman of the Rules Committee, but I have to say that if the whole purpose of this is what I think it is, then I would like to go back to the actual beginning of when he was dealt with it, how it has been treated as a treaty and it should have gotten the advice and consent of the Senate. Why did President Obama not do that? Obviously, he did it because he couldn’t get the advice and consent of the Senate, so he decided to do it this way.

If our whole job in coming to the people’s House is to defend the American people, then we need to take a real long look at what it is that we are trying to defend. If a messaging bill, there is no question about it.

If you look at the damage that could be done to the American people—I am talking about the American people now, not a philosophy that is out there, not an agenda that is out there, but I am talking about hardworking Americans: a loss of nearly 400,000 jobs—this is a real threat or that our constituents somehow don’t care about this issue, which they do.

And just one other thing. I want to make sure that the record is clear on process. This bill went through two committee hearings—Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce—and two markups before it went to the Rules Committee where we granted a structured rule and we are having a debate here on the floor. That is called regular order. I know some of my Republican friends don’t know what regular order is, because when they were in charge bills routinely came to the Rules Committee that bypassed committees of jurisdiction and then were closed up and sent to the floor with no amendments at all.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. Schakowsky), the distinguished chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Ms. Schakowsky. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying bill.

Climate change is the greatest, the greatest, and most urgent challenge of our time and this government should never put corporate profits and those kinds of concerns ahead of the health and safety of our children and our future.

Climate change isn’t just a Democratic or a Republican issue. It is an existential issue for our species on this planet.

I am hearing so many mischaracterizations of what the Paris accord is. These standards that are applied to the United States are not from the outside, not coming from across the pond. We agree to reduce carbon emissions on our own terms. Every country develops its own plan and its own program.

This issue about jobs is just ridiculous. Everyone understands that our future is not in the fossil fuel industry. The future is in the green technologies that are being developed by entrepreneurs. Young people get it.

The 21st century jobs of the future are clean technologies that are being developed by entrepreneurs. The future is not in the fossil fuel industry.

The past is over. The burden of a philosophy, a failed philosophy, that has no chance of working itself into law. We know that, and yet today we will come here, and we will rail against something that isn’t really on the list of what the American people have the greatest concerns over.

The people who I represent back in Pennsylvania, they thank me every day for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because it has reduced their utility bills.

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

Madam Speaker, let me just remind my colleagues that the impact on our economy is astronomical if we do nothing. We are already seeing the negative impacts on our economy because of climate change. It is hard to believe that we are having a debate on the floor of the House of Representatives where people are denying that climate change is a real threat or that our constituents somehow don’t care about this issue, which they do.

And just one other thing. I want to make sure that the record is clear on process. This bill went through two committee hearings—Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce—and two markups before it went to the Rules Committee where we granted a structured rule and we are having a debate here on the floor. That is called regular order. I know some of my Republican friends don’t know what regular order is, because when they were in charge bills routinely came to the Rules Committee that bypassed committees of jurisdiction and then were closed up and sent to the floor with no amendments at all.

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The 21st century jobs of the future are clean technologies that are being developed by entrepreneurs. The future is not in the fossil fuel industry.
Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. What is the cost that we are bearing in all of our States and at the Federal level to mitigate the problems that are caused by climate change? And I want to just say to my colleagues: These words are on the Record. And I think you might want to consider, Madam Speaker, not just the effects on your children and your grandchildren and future generations of yours with making the kinds of statements you are.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), my good friend.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose the rule and the underlying legislation that is both ill-advised and misguided.

The environment in the United States isn't getting dramatically worse as those on the other side claim. We are using more while actually reducing air pollutants.

The total emissions of the six major air pollutants has dropped by 68 percent since 1970. This is a feat no other country has accomplished.

How did we do this? These milestones have been achieved due to free-market innovation and technological advances only possible in a capitalist society.

This is how we solve problems, not through disastrous plans like the Paris climate accord that imposes burdensome and costly regulations not approved by Congress. Remember that: not approved by Congress.

The accord, which was negotiated unilaterally by the Obama administration with little congressional oversight, was flawed in both process and substance. The Obama administration skipped the ratification process in the Senate and tied the American people's hands through executive power.

In fact, I offered an amendment in committee to delay this legislation until we performed our constitutional duty, but the other side would rather send billions of taxpayer dollars to other countries without congressional approval. If the American people are forced to put aside their personal needs in order to help the global good, the Constitution should be followed, and the Senate should perform their proper role.

The substance of the Paris climate accord was equally flawed and would have severely damaged the American economy. It is estimated that the Paris climate accord would result in a loss of 400,000 jobs, a total income loss of $20,000 or more per family of four, and an aggregate gross domestic product loss of over $2.5 trillion.

When it comes to the U.S. economy, the accord does nothing to hold the biggest offenders of the emissions accountable, nations like Russia and China. Again, an amendment was offered in committee to hold these nations accountable—those who want to consider standards the United States would be held to and it was shot down by the other side.

We can't have effective climate policy that puts the United States at a disadvantage to its main security and economic competitors in the world. This is not an America First agenda. This legislation is more of a redistribution of wealth scheme than actual sound environmental policy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DUNCAN. I think it is telling when former U.N. climate official Ottmar Edenhofer said regarding international climate policy, "We redistribute the wealth of the world's economy by climate policy."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule and defeat the underlying legislation.

Mr. McGovern. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a Washington Post article entitled "Trump on Climate Change: 'People Like Myself, We Have Very High Levels of Intelligence, But We're Not Necessarily Such Believers.'"

[(By Josh Dawsey, Philip Rucker, Brady Dennis and Chris Mooney)

President Trump on Nov. 25 reacted to a major report that said climate change will challenge the economy, environment, and human health. (The Washington Post)]

President Trump on Tuesday dismissed a landmark report compiled by 13 federal agencies detailing how damage from global warming is intensifying throughout the country, saying he is not among the "believers" who see climate change as a pressing problem.

The comments were the president's most extensive yet on why he disagrees with his own government's analysis, which found that climate change poses a severe threat to the health of Americans, as well as to the country's infrastructure and natural resources. The findings—unequivocal, urgent and alarming—are at odds with the Trump administration's rollback of environmental regulations and absence of any climate action policy.

"One of the problems that a lot of people like myself, if we have very high levels of intelligence but we're not necessarily such believers," Trump said during a freewheeling 20-minute Oval Office interview with The Washington Post in which he was asked why he was skeptical of the dire National Climate Assessment's administration released Friday.

"As to whether or not it's man-made and whether or not the effects that you're talking about are there, I don't see it," he added. Trump did not address the fundamental cause of climate change. The president ruffled on pollution in other parts of the world. He talked about trash in the oceans. He opined on forest management practices. But he said little about what scientists say is actually driving the warming of the planet—emissions of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

"You look at our air and our water and it's right now at a record clean. But when you look at China and you look at parts of Asia and you look at South America, and when you look at many other places in this world, including Russia, including many other places, the air is incredibly dirty, and when you're talking about the oceans are very small," Trump said in an apparent reference to pollution around the globe. "And it blows over and it soaks over. I mean it's a total mess. We lost it off our beaches all the time that comes over from Asia. It just flows down right over the Pacific. It flows and we say, 'Where does this come from?' And it takes many people, to start off with."

Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech University, sent an email Tuesday that the president's comments risk leaving the nation vulnerable to the ever-growing impacts of a warming planet. "Facts aren't something we need to believe to make them true—we treat them as optional at our peril," Hayhoe said. "And if we're the president of the United States, we do so at the peril of not just ourselves but the hundreds of millions of people we're responsible for."

Andrew Dessler, a professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University, struggled to find a response to the president's comments. "How can one possibly respond to this?" Dessler said when reached by email, calling the president's comments "idiotic." And saying Trump's main motivation seemed to be attacking the environmental policies of the Obama administration and criticizing political adversaries.

In his comments, Trump also seemed to invoke a theme that is common in the world of climate-change skepticism—the idea that not so long ago, scientists feared global cooling, rather than the warming that is under- way today.

"If you go back and if you look at articles, they talk about global freezing," Trump said. "They talk about at some point, the planet is going to freeze to death, then it's going to get hot again."

This may refer to an oft-cited 1975 Newsweek article titled "The Cooling World" or a 1974 Time magazine story titled "Another Ice Age?" But researchers who have reviewed this period have found that while such ideas were indeed afoot at the time, there was "no consensus at all—about a global cooling trend or risk, as there is today about human-caused climate change.

In other words, scientists' understanding of how the planet works, and the consequences, is far more developed now than it was in the 1970s.

Earth has warmed roughly one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) above late-19th-century, preindustrial levels. Multiple analyses have shown that without rapid emissions cuts—well beyond what the world is undertaking—the warming will continue and could blow past key thresholds that scientists say could lead to irreparable climate-related catastrophes, such as more-extreme weather, the death of coral reefs and losses of major parts of planetary ice sheets.

On Tuesday, a U.N. report underscored again the urgency of the world's promises to cut greenhouse-gas emissions. The report found that, with global emissions sustaining as of 2017 and they will peak by 2026. Scientists have said carbon emissions must fall sharply in coming years if the world is to have a chance of avoiding the worst consequences of climate change.

Trump also made reference to recent devastating wildfires in California, which scientists say have been made more intense and destructive by climate change. The president instead focused on how the forests that burned have been managed. Previously, he has praised Finland for spending "a lot of time and resources and money" to proactively remove forest floors—a notion that left the Finnish president flummoxed.
“The fire in California, where I was, if you looked at the floor, the floor of the fire, they have trees that were fallen,” Trump said. “They did no forest management, you can light—all you can light—you can take a match like this and light a tree trunk when that thing is laying there for more than 14 or 15 months. And it’s a massive problem in California.”

“You go to other places where they have denser trees, it’s more dense, where the trees are more flammable, they don’t have forest fires like this because they maintain,” he said. “And it was very interesting I was watching the firemen, and they were raking brush. They’re just raking it, working so hard. If that was raked in the beginning, there would be nothing to catch on fire.”

Trump wasn’t the only administration official on Tuesday to shrug off the federal government’s latest climate warnings. In a television appearance in California, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke acknowledged that fire seasons have grown longer in the state but added, “Climate change or not, it doesn’t relieve you of responsibility to manage the forest.”

Meanwhile, asked Tuesday about the findings of the nearly 1,700-page climate report the administration released on Black Friday, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders echoed her boss.

“We think that this is the most extreme version of a story based on facts,” Sanders said of the National Climate Assessment. “It’s not data-driven. We’d like to see some things that are more data-driven. It’s based on modeling, which is extremely hard to do when you’re talking about the climate. Again, our focus is on making sure we have the safest, cleanest air and water.”

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I do think that the President’s comments reflect this President’s ignorance on an issue that is not only of national concern but of international concern.

In the past three annual worldwide threat assessments, the U.S. intelligence communities have cited climate change as a national security threat and a multiplier of threats that create instability, food and water shortages, refugee and population migration, and economic disruption. This is a system we can’t ignore anymore. We need to pass this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, climate change is a crisis that demands our immediate attention. Its effects are ongoing. It will impact all of us eventually, whether through worse storms, bigger wildfires, less food and water, or conflicts over resources.

The good news is, we still have the time and ability to halt the worst effects. That is what the Paris climate agreement achieved. This landmark agreement was the first ever to unite 195 countries around the common goal of protecting our planet from the worst impacts of our own actions. That is why we must pass H.R. 9, to keep the President from pulling us out of this deal and require the administration to develop plans to meet our emissions reduction targets.

Under the Paris Agreement, each country agreed to meet our own goals to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius. Despite Trump’s step backwards, I am proud that my State of California shows change can be made with commonsense steps.

Investments in important technologies like renewable energy, clean cars, and green buildings mean that California is on track to drop our emissions to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050. Now the Federal Government must follow suit.

The urgency of fighting climate change cannot be in question. Neither can our commitment to the Paris Agreement. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. Climate change is here, and it is worth highlighting some of the impacts that are underway.

This year, we have seen record flooding in the Midwest, unprecedented wildfires in the West, and record temperatures across the country.

In Vermont—and talk about economic impacts—the ski season is getting shorter. In one story I have noted that even under the most optimistic climate change models, all the ski areas in southern New England will no longer be economically viable by 2040. That would be thousands of jobs melting away as a result of climate change.

We have had 16 disasters in 2017 with damage exceeding $1 billion, spending $306 billion on weather-related disasters that year.

Climate change is a priority for young people and local officials. It now must become a priority for Congress.

The Climate Action Now Act takes an important step in this direction by keeping us—or getting us back into the Paris climate agreement and not taken out by the action of a single person. This bill is just the beginning.

We must become a priority for Congress. We are now the only country in the world not firmly behind this agreement.

There are times where we must stand alone. This is not one of them. Climate change and its impacts are an existential threat, and American leadership has a major role to play. But under the Trump administration, we are retreating from our responsibility and giving up our seat at the table.

Two years ago, more than 180 Representatives joined my resolution condemning President Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, but the Republican leadership refused to let this body vote its will. Today, that changes. That is because this House is finally reflecting the will of the American people, which, by a 5-to-1 margin, support staying in the agreement.

We need to work with the rest of the world, and the nations of the world are looking to us to lead. Staying in the Paris Agreement and developing a plan to meet emission reduction targets agreed to would be an important first step.

As this House takes action to pass H.R. 9, I hope the Senate will follow our lead and promptly take up the legislation, and I hope today’s vote—this vote—represents just the first of many efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and prevent a global climate disaster.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).
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Counties, the Army Corps of Engineers must replenish sand regularly or we will lose land for military exercises, and buildings on the base could literally fall into the sea.

As sea levels rise and the severity of coastal storms increase, these problems will only become more acute. Fortunately, House Democrats have recognized these threats, and we have developed plans to address them through the creation of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, on which I proudly serve.

The Climate Action Now Act is our pledge to the world that many in the United States Congress want our Nation to be a global leader in solving this crisis. I urge my Republican colleagues to vote to protect our children’s and our grandchildren’s future and our national security. I urge a “yes” vote on the rule and on the bill.

LIESKOS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGovern. Madam Speaker: I include in my remarks a letter from leading health advocates in support of H.R. 9, as well as a letter signed by many of the leading environmental organizations in support of this legislation.

April 29, 2019.

Dear Representative: The undersigned public health and medical organizations urge you to support H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. The bill would help ensure that the United States adheres to the science-based targets in the Paris Agreement and develops a plan to meet them, both essential steps to protecting public health from the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is a public health emergency. The science clearly shows that communities across the nation are experiencing the health impacts of climate change, including enhanced conditions for ozone and particulate air pollution, which cause asthma and heart disease and premature death; increased instances of extreme heat, severe storms and other destabilizing weather patterns that disrupt people’s daily lives; increased exposure to hazardous air pollutants and increased spread of vector-borne diseases; and longer and more intense allergy seasons. These threats are no longer hypothetical, and Americans across the country have experienced them firsthand.

Every American’s health is at risk due to climate change, but some populations are at greater risk, including infants, children, seniors, pregnant women, low-income communities, some communities of color, people with disabilities and many people with chronic conditions and experience shows that these populations will disproportionately bear the health impacts of climate change without concerted action to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The science is also clear that limiting increase in global temperatures to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius is essential. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found dramatic differences in health impacts between 1.5 and 2 degrees, including in heat-related morbidity and mortality, ozone-related morbidity and mortality, and vector-borne diseases.

The Paris Agreement’s goals are to keep the world well under 2 degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to further stay below 1.5 degrees.

H.R. 9 is an important step toward what must become a comprehensive set of policies protect public health from the worst impacts of climate change. The nation urgently needs to implement strong, science-based measures to reduce the emissions that cause climate change. We rely on the health community to develop and adapt strategies to help communities address the varied health impacts they are already facing.

On behalf of the patients and communities we serve, we urge you to vote YES on H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Dear Representative: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we urge you to support H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. The bill would help ensure that the United States meets its commitments under the Paris Agreement and to reinforce our national resolve to address the climate crisis.

The Paris Agreement is a global response to the greatest environmental challenge of our time. It includes, for the first time, specific commitments for 195 countries and a pathway for each country to strengthen its own domestic climate actions in the years ahead. United States leadership and participation are crucial in bringing the world together to act. But now, by threatening to exit the agreement, the Trump administration risks isolating itself, undermining global efforts and weakening America’s international influence on a broad array of critical foreign policy issues.

Americans are experiencing the health impacts of climate change here and now in a rising tide of extreme weather disasters, from hurricanes in the southeast, to wildfires in the west, to flooding right now in the country’s heartland. It’s no surprise that polls consistently show that concern over the climate crisis is rising across generational, geographic, and partisan lines.

Americans’ personal experience is underscored by a raft of new scientific reports. Last fall, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that climate change is already happening, and ambitious action to curb carbon pollution is needed starting now to stave off steadily worsening impacts in the U.S. and across the globe. The last four years have been the hottest on record since global measurements began in 1880, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. And the National Climate Assessment—prepared by 13 federal agencies and released by the Trump Administration last year—lays out the stark reality of current climate impacts in all regions of the nation and projects how much worse they could get.

Without significant global action, the National Climate Assessment concludes: “Rising temperatures are already occurring. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns are altering ecosystems and human well-being.”

The United States must become a comprehensive set of policies designed to meet these targets. The Paris Agreement fulfills our commitments under the Paris Agreement and stays on the path toward serious action on climate change.

Climate change is not just a public health and environmental issue, it is a matter of national security as well. America’s leadership and vision needed to tackle the climate crisis. We urge you to support the Climate Action Now Act to help make the future climate safe for our children and grandchildren and honor America’s commitments to help confront this global challenge.

Signatures:


Mr. McGovern. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. Langevin).

Mr. Langevin. Madam Speaker, I was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. Langevin. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

The simple fact of the matter is that climate change is real, and it is creating enormous consequences for the United States. It is a threat to coastal and river communities across our nation, to public health, and to our economy.

But it is also affecting our military readiness, our national security, and it is changing the strategic environment in which we operate. That is why I added language to the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act making it clear that Congress acknowledges climate change is a threat to our national security.

My amendment also requires the Department of Defense to assess the military bases most threatened by climate change, including an analysis of future costs of how to deal with and mitigate
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those challenges. Only through sober and rigorous analysis can we recognize the true cost of climate change to American strength and capabilities.

Madam Speaker, it is absolutely imperative that we address the impacts of climate change now, and we have more work to do. This year, on the Armed Services Committee, we will continue to require the Pentagon to better assess and report on the climate threat.

Madam Speaker, the Climate Action Now Act is about honoring our global commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It was signed by an overwhelming 174 countries, plus the European Union. This agreement represents a clear consensus to get serious and combat climate change.

It was signed by the President, with the aim of the Democratic Party to reenter an inequitable international agreement, one that pushes the United States to adopt burdensome, painful measures and hold us to a standard that no other country that is a part of this agreement has bothered to meet themselves, all to do something that we are already doing, and that is lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

But H.R. 9 is not the real agenda of our Democratic colleagues. To understand what the real Democratic Party wants to do, one needs to look no further than H.R. 109, better known as the Green New Deal.

Look, people in my district are not asking where I stand or what I think about the Paris climate agreement, but where I stand on the Green New Deal. And businesses I talk to want to know whether or not I support the proposal that would drastically increase energy bills. And businesses I talk to want to know whether or not I support what amounts to a torrent of heavy-handed regulations.

I assure you, as I did them, that I do not, I strongly oppose the Green New Deal, but I am sure some of my colleagues across the aisle would agree as well. But I am also positive that their constituents, Democratic constituents, want to know where their Representatives stand on this issue just as much as mine want to know where I stand. So let's have a vote.

But let's be frank with each other. The Speaker would not allow a recorded vote. Speaker Pelosi knows very likely that to have a vote on the Green New Deal could cost the Democrats the majority.

So, look, here is the deal. We Republicans are more than happy to go on record with our opposition to the Green New Deal, and we are more than happy to help our Democratic colleagues go on record with their support for the Green New Deal. So help us defeat the previous question.

But I understand it may be difficult for some of my colleagues across the aisle to do so, and if they are unable to help support us on this previous question, then I have another opportunity.

If we do not defeat the previous question immediately following this vote series, I am going to file a discharge petition to ensure a vote on the Green New Deal. I encourage all Members to vote against the previous question, vote against the rule, and sign the discharge petition. Let's have a vote on the Green New Deal.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding this time.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the previous question and a "no" vote on the underlying measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 4 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This is like the theater of the absurd, when I listen to my Republican colleagues. We have a bill, H.R. 9, that the end of the world because it is going to have all these implications.

Then we get lectured to by my Republican colleagues for almost an hour...
now that 30 amendments are not enough on a 6-page bill, that we need more and more amendments in order. Thus, the gentleman from Georgia comes to the floor and says: I want to offer the Green New Deal, and I want to offer it under a closed rule where nobody can markups or Republicans can amend it.

I mean, you can’t make this stuff up. The Republicans are saying: We don’t want hearings, and we don’t want markups. We want nothing. We just want to bring it to the floor under a closed rule so that nobody, Democrats or Republicans, can amend it.

I support the Green New Deal. I have some ideas to make it a little bit better. I would like to have some amendments made in order. But my Republican friends say no amendments, closed rule, shut it all down. Old habits die hard.

When the Republicans were in charge, they presided over the most closed Congress in the history of our country, and they just can’t break that old habit.

Well, you know what? We want to move on a Green New Deal, but we want to do it right. We want to do it with hearings, and you can have some of your friends and allies who are climate-change deniers come to testify against it if you want. We will bring experts and scientists because we believe in science. We will have them come to talk about why it is important and how we can improve it.

We look forward to that, but not under a closed rule with no hearings and no markups. This is embarrassing.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a unique role to play in fighting climate change, not just because we have the largest economy anywhere but last because we played a major role in furthering this crisis.

Between 1970 and 2013, the U.S. ranked number one in total carbon emissions. We released more carbon into the atmosphere than China, Japan, or any of the other 49 global nations. That is according to the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research. I don’t think we should be turning our back on a problem that we helped create.

Isn’t it a rational or partisan idea. Experts consider 1968 to be the year that the science behind climate change became widely known and accepted, and that is the year when a Republican presidential nominee, George H.W. Bush, pledged that he would fight the greenhouse effect with the “White House effect.”

We have come a long way since then, Madam Speaker, and I don’t mean positively. There was a time when Republicans cared about the environment, when they understood that issues like the ozone hole were something that we needed to work on in a bipartisan way. Now they have become the party of climate change deniers.
Mr. STEUBE. Mr. HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. CURTIS, STEWART, GROTHMAN, and ROGERS of Alabama changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. ESPAILLAT changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, on the motion of Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a question of the privileges of the House previously noticed.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a question of the privileges of the House previously noticed.

The Speaker pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 188, not voting 17, as follows:

NAY—188

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

So the resolution was agreed to. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a question of the privileges of the House previously noticed.

So the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Therefore resolved, that the privileges of the House be discharged.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. CURTIS, STEWART, GROTHMAN, and ROGERS of Alabama changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. ESPAILLAT changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the resolution. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 188, not voting 17, as follows:

NAY—188

So the resolution was agreed to. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a question of the privileges of the House previously noticed.
Reform preceding his testimony, which included the written assertion, “I have never asked for, nor would I accept, a pardon from President Trump”;

Whereas in truth and fact, Cohen’s denial in his written statement of never asking for a Presidential pardon was an unqualified assertion;

Whereas Michael Cohen falsely testified under oath that he did not want to go to the White House and he “did not want a role or title in the administration”;

Whereas in truth and fact the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York submitted to Federal court a sentencing memorandum expressing Michael Cohen’s desire to work in the White House, explaining: “during and after the campaign, Cohen privately told friends and colleagues, including in seized text messages, that he expected to be given a prominent role or title in the government. When that did not materialize, Cohen found a way to monetize his relationship and access to the President”;

Whereas Michael Cohen falsely testified under oath on other factual matters of material significance;

Whereas Michael Cohen’s intentionally false testimony was aimed at obscuring the truth and ameliorating the extent of his own personal embarrassment;

Whereas intentionally false testimony to a committee of the House of Representatives harms the integrity of the proceedings of the House;

Whereas it is a Federal crime to provide false information to Congress and the failure to enforce this crime further undermines the integrity of the House; and

Whereas it is the judgment of the House of Representatives that providing a copy of the official transcript of the hearing during which Michael Cohen testified under oath on February 27, 2019, to the Department of Justice would aid the Attorney General’s consideration of investigation and potential prosecution of Michael Cohen’s criminal conduct: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the House of Representatives directs the chair of the Oversight and Reform Committee to submit to the Attorney General an official copy of the transcript of the hearing during which Michael Cohen testified under oath on February 27, 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk reads as follows:

Mr. HOYER moves that the resolution be laid on the table.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 226, noes 183, not voting 22, as follows:

AYES—226

Mr. BOSWELL of Texas (speaker pro tempore). The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I understand there are no objections to the motion to table the Greenmotion. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The result of the vote was announced by the Clerk.

NOES—183

Mr. VAN Drew changed his vote from “no” to “aye,” as follows:

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 174.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 174.

Note: Vote 1426

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I spoke at the memorial service for Indiana’s former Senator Birch Bayh and missed roll call votes 172 to 174. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Roll Call 172, on the Previous Question on the Rule, H. Res. 329, vote YEA.

Roll Call 173, on H. Res. 329, vote YEA.

Roll Call 174, on the Motion to Table the Green of Tennessee Privileged Resolution, H. Res. 304, vote YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and could not get to the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 172, “nay” on rollcall No. 173, and “nay” on rollcall No. 174.
MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSWOMAN ELLEN TAUSCHER

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to mark the passing of a leader of exceptional courage and firm principles, our colleague and dear friend, Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher.

The presence of so many members from our California delegation is a beautiful tribute to her beautiful life. Thank you all for being here.

Ellen’s passing is a great official loss to the people of California and to the Nation and a deep personal loss for all of us who are blessed to call her friend. Our hearts break for her daughter, Katherine. Personally, it was a joy for many of us to see her expect Katherine. Katherine came. Katherine is growing up. She took such delight in being Katherine’s mother.

Ellen was an extraordinary force for progress who made a difference. Her smart, strategic leadership strengthened our democratic institutions and kept America safe, and her relentless commitment to nuclear nonproliferation beautifully honored the oath we take to support and defend the Constitution and protect the American people.

Ellen was a pioneer who made history when she became the youngest ever and one of the very earliest women members of the New York Stock Exchange, where she was a powerful voice for technology, science, and innovation.

Ellen’s friendship was a gift, and her legacy was one of outstanding leadership marked by deep patriotism and tireless commitment to progress.

May it be a comfort to Ellen’s beloved daughter, Katherine, and her many, many loved ones that so many share their loss and pray for them at this sad time.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that Members and guests in the gallery rise to observe a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 329 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 9.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 9) to direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes, with Mr. BLUMENAUER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the House the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 90 minutes, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 30 minutes, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. ADERHOLT) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

I shouldn’t need to persuade anyone in this Chamber that we desperately need to take serious action on climate change. Just look at the news. We’re already seeing the consequences of our inaction: natural disasters, famines, instability, human suffering.

The time for action to avoid the worst effects of climate change is rapidly closing. We must demonstrate to the rest of the world and to future generations that we are still committed to taking on this fight.

Climate change is a national security threat that transcends borders and requires international coordination. That is why it is so critical that we work shoulder to shoulder with our friends and partners around the world.

The negotiation of the Paris Agreement was a defining moment for the future of our planet. For the first time, the countries of the world came together to face this global crisis. At challenging times like these, the international community usually looks to the United States for leadership. So when President Trump announced his intention to withdraw from this landmark agreement, it sent an unmistakable message that America is on the retreat. It is really just shameful.

Our Nation has now signed on to the Paris Agreement. If we withdraw, we will be the only country unwilling to step up to this challenge. We can—we must—do better.

The Climate Action Now Act keeps the United States in the Paris accord, renewing our country’s pledge to address climate change head-on.

The Paris Agreement allows every country to determine its own pollution reduction targets and to develop a public plan for how to meet those targets. This bill follows that same model. It gives the executive branch total flexibility to decide what approach we need to follow and what kind of technology we need to use to reach our national targets.

H.R. 9 gives us all an opportunity to show Americans that we hear them, that we take their concerns seriously, and that we are addressing this danger that is hurting their health and safety.

Chair, it is time for Congress to put our country back on the right path to address the climate change crisis facing the world. I strongly support passage of H.R. 9, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we can all agree that the climate is changing and we need to take positive steps to address it. However, I oppose H.R. 9 because it is just a messaging bill that is dead on arrival in the Senate and that the President will veto.

I oppose H.R. 9 because, among other problems, it attempts to codify President Obama’s unrealistic and unilateral determination of the Paris Agreement’s reduction pledge under the Paris Agreement. This pledge was submitted on behalf of the United States without any notification, consultation, or role for Congress.

At a recent hearing, when we asked whether any of the witnesses agreed that President Obama should have submitted the Paris Agreement to the...
Senate for ratification, all four witnesses, including the three Democrat witnesses, agreed it should have been submitted to the Senate.

In addition to not involving Congress, the Obama administration also did not seek meaningful input from private sector stakeholders, such as energy companies.

Not only that, the administration provided no cost-benefit analysis or economic justification to rationalize its pursuit of this billion-dollar pledge—to cut greenhouse gases by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

A recent study by the Chamber of Commerce estimates it could cost U.S. GDP $350 billion and 2.7 million jobs by 2025. By 2040, it could cost the United States economy $3 trillion and 6.5 million industrial sector jobs.

But the good news is that, even before the United States entered the Paris Agreement, the United States started making progress to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions. According to the EPA, from 1990 to 2014, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions per GDP declined by 40 percent, and we are at the lowest emissions levels since 2000.

In addition, over the last decade, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 14 percent. Mr. Chairman, while China’s emissions doubled. Sadly, China, the world’s largest greenhouse gas emitter, under this agreement, will continue to increase its emissions through 2030 under its unenforceable Paris Agreement pledge.

Other major greenhouse gas emitters, like Russia, have signed the Paris Agreement but have not ratified it.

Instead of doubling down on a pledge that Congress had no role in setting that will have a potentially catastrophic impact on the United States economy and which will do nothing, Mr. Chairman, to address China and other countries’ growing emissions, we should work on bipartisan legislation to boost research, advance technologies, promote innovation, and develop real solutions.

That is why I offered an amendment calling for bipartisan solutions to address this challenge, providing a meaningful role for Congress regarding the Paris Agreement, and requiring our greenhouse gas reduction commitments to undergo a rigorous cost-benefit analysis. Unfortunately, this amendment failed by a party-line vote in the committee and the Rules Committee, denying it from even being debated on this House floor.

So for that, Mr. Chairman, and many other reasons, I oppose H.R. 9, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my friend on the other side of the aisle just said that all four witnesses at our April 2 hearing in the Foreign Affairs Committee expressed agreement that President Obama should have submitted the Paris accord to the Senate for ratification. I was there and chaired the hearing. I didn’t hear that.

Let me tell you that, first of all, we were proud to welcome a distinguished panel of national security leaders, including former military officials. They offered detailed descriptions of the risks that climate change poses to our national security.

They talked about how climate change acts as a threat multiplier and a source of conflict, how it makes individuals more vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremist organizations, how it is increasing great power competition and tensions in places like the Arctic, and how it is the driver of extreme weather and natural disasters that require dangerous and expensive military responses.

More to my point, there was a fleeting question about whether any witness disagreed with the statement that President Obama should have submitted the Paris Agreement to the Senate for ratification. The only response, I believe, came from one retired admirer, who simply said, “military, not political,” meaning he is not the right guy to ask, nor were any of the other witnesses, so they all sat in silence.

As my colleague should know, silence is not an assent, whether it is at a congressional hearing or at a deposition or even in the exit row of an overcrowded commercial airplane. A person must give a verbal “yes” or “no” for their answer to be accepted and relied upon.

So I just want to clear the record, because what really happened is one of my colleagues posed a question to the wrong person and got no answer.

So when it comes to arguing that the Paris Agreement needed to be submitted to the Senate for ratification, my colleagues are incorrect as a matter of international law and incorrect as a matter of fact.

What is necessary to combat the climate crisis is to stop carbon pollution from accumulating in the atmosphere. That requires action, urgent action, ambitious action.

Fortunately, we have made some progress in recent years in cutting carbon pollution. Thousands of businesses, houses of worship, States, and communities are taking action. Now they are demanding that we do the same.

A few years ago, there was also good news. After years of finger-pointing, the United States, China, India, Europe, and other countries, all of the countries around the world, came together and agreed to cut carbon pollution. With America’s leadership and engagement, the U.S. led other nations in committing to take climate action in an international agreement called the Paris climate accord. The agreement was a breakthrough.

After years of playing the blame game, nearly every other country said, ‘game over.’ America Plus. America that has developed its own individual plan, and America has done just that. That plan has incredible upsides.
We are creating millions of clean energy jobs right now, and they are good-paying jobs. We are saving billions of dollars on home energy bills, and businesses are saving huge amounts of money through energy efficiency. We can avoid climate injustices.

And despite what the Trump administration says, America is still in the international agreement. We have not formally withdrawn. If this bill becomes law, we will never, never, because America’s word is our bond, America has to keep its commitments, and we will re-commit to doing so when we pass this bill. My Climate Action Now bill is straightforward. It would block the administration from spending any money on withdrawal, and it would require the Trump administration to release its plan to cut carbon pollution.

Americans overwhelmingly support U.S. leadership on the climate crisis because they understand that when America leads, we win. Ask the 23 States, 300 cities, and more than 2,000 businesses who have pledged to honor the Paris goals. Now they will be joined by the House of Representatives.

Some of the fastest growing jobs in America are clean energy, engineering, green building, solar installers, and wind turbine technicians. This is just the beginning, but we have to stay on course.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. In addition to sending an important signal to clean energy, job-creating businesses, this will send an important signal to our allies across the world. We expect ambitious action from them.

I have heard my friends on the other side of the aisle say, but China, well, if the President forces a retreat here, other countries will retreat, as well. A vote for H.R. 9 is a vote to let China off the hook. This is a patriotic vote. Vote for America, vote for our future, and keep us in the climate Paris Agreement. I thank the hundreds of my colleagues who have joined this, and I thank the brave Republicans who will join us in this patriotic vote for Climate Action Now.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3%½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. Yoho), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Yoho. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now bill because I believe the president does not want clean water or clean air or deny a world-changing climate. H.R. 9 is a direct attack on this administration for withdrawing from the flawed agreement and is a purely political move by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

The Paris Agreement requires each signatory country to determine, plan, and regularly report on the contributions that it undertakes to mitigate global warming with no regard for American consumers; it places burdensome regulations on American businesses that are already employing environmentally friendly practices; and it places the Paris Agreement to supplement other nations on the backs of the moms, dads, and citizens of America.

In August 2016, President Obama unilaterally accepted the Paris Agreement under the United Nations climate change treaty. Rather than bringing it to this body, where it could be ratified with the advice and consent of the Senate, this was a blatant power grab by the executive branch encumbering America and future generations. I had been opposed to President Obama’s decision to circumvent congressional approval of the Paris Agreement from the beginning. It was a clear violation of the Constitution to leave an agreement without congressional approval of an agreement that will have far-reaching implications on our economy and our citizens.

During the 114th Congress, I introduced H.R. 544, expressing the sense of the House that the President should submit any binding international agreement on climate change to the Senate as a treaty. By accepting the Paris Agreement without congressional approval, the Obama administration circumvented the need to negotiate an agreement that was good for the world and not just for America. It was a clear violation of the Constitution to leave an agreement without congressional approval of an agreement that will have far-reaching implications on our economy and our citizens.

As we continue to have discussions about how to address climate change, we should focus on solutions for the world. Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Levin), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Levin of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman Engel for yielding, and I congratulate Representative Castor for her great leadership on this issue.

I feel it is odd listening to the very same argument that we are made to do, and yet the very same document puts a huge burden on America by putting enforced requirements on us. It doesn’t make any sense.

Mr. Chairman, for decades, the scientific community has understood the need to fundamentally transition everything about how we live, work, and move about this planet to protect life on Earth as we know it. We have known this for decades. And yet, knowing how destructive climate change is to our health, our safety, and our national security, President Trump decided to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and neglect, not just the fundamental responsibility to protect Americans, but an enormous economic opportunity.

I feel like I am listening to arguments from lobbyists from the horse and carriage industry against railroads, or for the buggy whip industry against paving roads because cars are such a threat.

President Trump made a huge mistake by backing away from the commitment we made in Paris. We are here today to correct that mistake and to steer our country back in the right direction.
We have a chance to propel economic growth with investments in zero net energy buildings, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, expanded solar, wind, geothermal, solar thermal, and more. We can lead the world in creating good-paying, sustainable jobs.

Those are the principles that we can move fast enough or comprehensively enough to address climate change, but this is about more than that. This is about unleashing American innovation, creating American jobs, and restoring American leadership on the world stage.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. We must pass this bill and we must do it now, both for the sake of the climate, for our kids, and for our economy.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. WRIGHT), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, which would prevent the President from rightfully withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement and codify President Obama’s misguided and, frankly, over-the-top emissions reduction commitments.

There are two principles, I believe, that should guide our international agreements.

First, they should be fair and beneficial to the American people.

Second, they should not put the United States at a disadvantage vis-à-vis other nations of the world.

The Paris Agreement fails on both counts.

As already noted, if we implement the commitments made by the Obama administration as part of this agreement, it could cost the U.S. gross domestic product $250 billion and eliminate 2.7 million jobs. That is hardly fair and beneficial to the American people.

As it is, the Paris Agreement allows countries to determine their own commitments, without regard to their emissions. Should this remain the case, the United States will forever be at a disadvantage to self-interested countries like China and Russia, whose emissions continue to grow. Meanwhile, our emissions were the lowest in 2017 since 1992. Despite this, our commitments far outweigh those made by the worst greenhouse gas offenders.

If submitted an amendment that would have, at the very least, addressed the disadvantage of this agreement. My amendment would have changed the enacted date of H.R. 9 to whenever the Secretary of State could certify that Russia and China were making commitments equivalent to ours.

I regret that it was not made in order and that my colleagues across the aisle denied us the opportunity to do right by the American people. H.R. 9 is an outrage, Mr. Chairman, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. Olson).

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chair, I thank my friend from Texas.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today because the previous administration wanted to score political points before leaving office by saving the world for America’s leadership on greenhouse gas emissions.

The former administration’s chasing glory on foreign soils signed the Paris climate agreement, or, as folks back home call it, “the kill America’s economy agreement so China can take my glory on foreign soils signed the Paris Agreement.

The Constitution, Article II, Section 2, paragraph 2, sentence 1, says very clearly: “He shall have the power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur.”

The Paris Agreement looks, smells, and feels like a treaty.

The worst offender for climate change in the world, China, had their legislature approve the Paris Agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and vote against H.R. 9.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I want to remind my colleagues that the United States was once a global leader in pushing for climate action, but the current administration has largely abandoned our efforts to mitigate the effects of a warming world. As a result, our progress in reducing pollution has dwindled and is now reversing.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s latest data shows that reductions in greenhouse gas pollution fell to just half a percent in 2017, and, according to the International Energy Agency, U.S. carbon dioxide pollution actually rose by 3.1 percent in 2018.

Think about that for a minute. At a time when the world desperately needs decisive and rapid action, our emissions increased. In a year, where more dirty coal plants closed than almost any other year in history, our emissions increased. So this bill is absolutely important.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. Spanberger), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

Back in 2003, 16 years ago, the Pentagon commissioned a report on how climate change would impact our ability to keep our country safe. Its conclusion? That we should move beyond scientific debate and treat ongoing ecological damage as a serious national security threat.

Our military and intelligence communities agree that climate change exacerbates conflict and instability. It weakens fragile governments, contributes to food and water insecurity, and perpetuates poverty.

These are threat multipliers, and they present real risk to U.S. interests around the globe, especially in areas vulnerable to extreme weather, such as the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

As a former CIA officer, I recognize that combating climate change is a national security imperative, and the first step in this fight is to keep our word to cooperate with our allies and partners in this battle. By staying in the Paris Agreement, we demonstrate that the United States takes our planet’s fate seriously, keeps its word, and can be a steady partner in future agreements.

Going forward, we must use our country’s tremendous diplomatic, military, and economic strength as assets in this global fight.

Today, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation because our country cannot afford to abdicate its role of leadership.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. Olsson).
private-sector investments and green innovation. China has created the world’s largest carbon market, pumped approximately three times as much money into renewables as we have, and surpassed the United States in terms of both the number of electric vehicles on the road and the number of publicly available charging stations.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Lee), the distinguished chairwoman.

Ms. Lee of California. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for yielding, for his tremendous leadership on this and so many issues.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. This piece of legislation is an extremely important first step in protecting our environment—major first step—and we have to move forward and do even more.

H.R. 9 ensures that the United States remains in the Paris Agreement and prohibits President Trump from exiting the agreement. It is critical that the United States takes the lead on addressing climate change on the world’s stage.

Let me be clear. The Trump Administration is plugging their ears and pretending that climate change doesn’t exist.

America was once a global leader in fighting climate change. It was our leadership that led so many nations to commit to climate action. Yet this administration has abandoned plans to address climate change and, instead, has weakened our leadership in the world. It is really shameful, and this needs to stop.

Climate change is an urgent matter. It creates more flooding and superstorms, threatening the safety of millions of Americans and people around the world.

People around our country and throughout the world are breathing in polluted and unhealthy air. Here in our own country, communities of color and low-income communities also, disproportionately, are impacted by the effects of climate change and have a lack of access to adequate healthcare services on top of that.

We owe it to our children and future generations to do more for the environment. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 9 and “yes” on fighting climate change.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

America has long been the standard of leadership, freedom, and innovation. We do not allow other countries to take liberties with us.

While H.R. 9 has many issues, my opposition is founded in its attempt to strip our President of his constitutional executive authority and force us to remain locked in an agreement that hurts American taxpayers.

After the Obama administration’s international apology tour, it is a refreshing change to have a strong hand at the wheel. I am glad to see President Trump defending our exceptionalism instead of发展中国的经济实力 for the sake of other countries.

My colleagues across the aisle would have us believe that we are heading for doom within a decade, that Americans are behind the curve. In reality, we lead the world in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while other countries are growing emissions; yet America is paying the lion’s share in the Paris Climate Accord.

American innovation and technological advancements are second to none. These are the same qualities of American excellence that made us the greatest country on this planet. We should not lower our standards and allow other nations to take advantage of us.

This poorly negotiated deal will do nothing to address the growing emissions from China and other industrial countries. It only hurts American jobs, especially the energy industry that employs hundreds of thousands of people and the gentlewoman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), a member of the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey that there are many of us on both sides of the aisle who agree the climate is changing, and I think it is a question of how we get there and the solutions and innovation and technology.

I applaud President Trump’s leadership on this issue and support his authority to remove us from the Paris climate accord.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, there is a lot of misinformation out there about the Paris Agreement, including the idea that it will hurt the U.S. economy. The Paris Agreement will cost little or nothing, and allowing climate change to proceed would certainly be very expensive indeed.

A raft of studies from environmental organizations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development all argue that a failure to mitigate the effects of climate change could cost the U.S. economy trillions of dollars. Citigroup found that investing in low-carbon energy to address climate change would save the world $1.8 trillion through 2060, but not acting will cost an additional $44 trillion by 2060.

Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. Engels. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. McCaul for his statements, and I agree with everything that was just stated. I have great respect for Chairman Engel and the bill’s sponsor, Ms. CASTOR, and for their intentions and their advocacy. I am forward of sacrificing our goals for international agreement. This agreement is the bare minimum we can do to prevent against the impacts of climate change.

We need to be serious about getting this right, that we are serious about preserving the world for our people, for our children, like my grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Mr. Chairman, let me first say to my good friend from New Jersey that there are many of us on this side of the aisle who agree the climate is changing, and I think it is a question of how we get there and the solutions and innovation and technology.

I hope that—I will not move forward; it will be, obviously, vetoed, but we can work on a bipartisan way on something that can reduce emissions using innovation technology. I personally think nuclear power should be examined as well.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.
want to advocate for that for our constituents. I was concerned with the negotiation of the Paris climate deal, that there wasn’t more discussion. There wasn’t any discussion on the economic impact of the negotiations. There wasn’t enough discussion on the impact on the economy.

There is a debate now over numbers. I wish it was fleshed out. What will be the impact on GDP? What will be the impact on jobs? What will be the impact for my constituents? There are a lot of numbers that are going around that are very concerning to my constituents.

Other countries were having debates, and they were having votes publicly. In this case, this was not submitted to the United States Senate for ratification, and there was some discussion earlier about what happened at the House Foreign Affairs Committee meeting on this topic.

I asked of the witnesses was: “Do any of the witnesses disagree with the statement that President Obama should have submitted it to the Senate for ratification?” That was the exact wording of my question.

If I had the video of the response, no one disagreed. I asked: “Does anyone disagree?” No one disagreed. There was one person, Admiral McGinn, who specified that his role was military, not political.

The Chair, the time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. Zeldin. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

He said his role was military, not political, but nobody disagreed with that statement. I believe it should have been submitted.

I also think it is outrageous that China and India are not doing more. They are emitters. China, in fact, won’t even comply to reduce its carbon emissions until 2030. Many other countries that made commitments aren’t fulfilling their commitments.

We needed a better deal for the world and other countries to step up and do more, more transparency and debates, and a vote here in Congress. That is in the best interests of all our constituents.

Hopefully, we can agree on the numbers and a process going forward, and we can work together on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Engel. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. Bonamici).

Ms. Bonamici. Mr. Chair, climate change is one of the greatest existential threats of our time. I am honored to serve on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis with the leaders of my constituency, Representative Castor.

In Oregon, smoke from raging wildfires makes the air unhealthy to breathe. Acidic oceans are threatening our fishing industries. Droughts and extreme weather patterns jeopardize the livelihoods of our farmers. Warmer water in the Columbia River is further threatening endangered salmon.

My home State of Oregon is one of the many States committed to meeting the Paris climate agreement targets, but climate change is a global crisis, which is why more than 175 countries have signed on to the agreement.

The Climate Action Now Act is a clear signal to our international allies and to the world that the United States, at least the United States House of Representatives, supports upholding our Nation’s commitments to the planet. This is about U.S. leadership.

The cost of inaction on climate change is too high to wait any longer. We can protect the planet, unleash innovation, and create good jobs. This bill is an important first step.

Mr. Chair, thank Chair Engel, Chair McGovern, and Chair Castor for their leadership. I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Meuser).

Mr. Meuser. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member McCaul for yielding.

Mr. Chair, in my district in Pennsylvania, we are conservationists. But with this bill, H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, more appropriately known as the U.S. energy disadvantage act, the American people are being told yet again that Big Government is the solution to all of the people’s problems. The American people know better than that, and they expect solutions, not more government.

The latest data is revealing. The U.S. is actually a global leader in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2017, while global CO2 emissions increased by 1.6 percent, the United States reduced its CO2 emissions by more than 42 million tons, an annual reduction of 0.5 percent, the largest reduction of any country in the world.

The data also underscores that we have not seen this type of progress from other countries that are still part of the Paris Agreement. American leadership is ongoing while countries like Spain, China, and Korea and China are polluting the air and the water. We need access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy sources, including natural gas, nuclear, oil, and clean coal. We need to empower our private sector to continue to innovate and develop new technologies. What we need is a true all-of-the-above and all-of-the-below energy plan.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to consider this and vote against this bill.

Mr. Engle. Mr. Chair, it is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Crist).

Mr. Crist. Mr. Chair, I thank Chair Engel for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chair, in my district in Florida, we have signed on to the Paris Agreement targets, but climate change is a global crisis, which is why more than 175 countries have signed on to the agreement.

The Climate Action Now Act is a clear signal to our international allies and to the world that the United States, at least the United States House of Representatives, supports upholding our Nation’s commitments to the planet. This is about U.S. leadership.

The cost of inaction on climate change is too high to wait any longer. We can protect the planet, unleash innovation, and create good jobs. This bill is an important first step.

Mr. Chair, thank Chair Engel, Chair McGovern, and Chair Castor for their leadership. I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Walberg).

Mr. Walberg. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 9, more appropriately named the U.S. energy disadvantage act.

The bill attempts to lock us into a bad deal. While the United States is continuing to lower its emissions and to lead the world through technological innovation, other countries around the world are not meeting even their targets. Some aren’t making targets. Those countries came up with commitments on their websites, and they still aren’t living up to them.

Staying in the Paris Agreement would raise energy prices and slow economic growth without curbing emissions in a meaningful, global fashion. We are not the ones who are polluting the air and the water. We are cleaning it up. We are doing it as a result of doing the right thing. Yet, Mr. Chair, today, the ones that are polluting greatest are doing nothing other than just being told to think up something by 2030.

Mr. Chair, our President did the right thing. We should do the same. We need bogus plans like the Green New Deal or ineffective climate agreements.

We need access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy sources, including natural gas, nuclear, oil, and clean coal. We need to empower our private sector to continue to innovate and develop new technologies. What we need is a true all-of-the-above and all-of-the-below energy plan.
Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When President Trump announced plans to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement in 2017, hundreds of businesses from all over the country immediately responded that it was a mistake and that they would redouble their own efforts to cut emissions.

In a separate declaration a few days later, a group called We Are Still In said that they would continue to support climate action. They argued that compliance with the Paris Agreement would open markets and generate jobs.

Today, We’re Still In is comprised of over 3,500 leaders, including Governors, mayors, universities, and over 1,800 companies working together to uphold America’s promise to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Included in the coalition are some of the country’s most successful companies, and I think you will recognize the names: Adobe, Amazon, Apple, Belkin, Ben & Jerry’s, Campbell’s, Chobani, Citib, DuPont, eBay, Gap, Google, The Hartford, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Johnson & Johnson, Levi Strauss, Lyft, Mars, McDonald’s, MGM Resorts International, Microsoft, and I can go on and on.

The Paris Agreement will not on its own solve our global warming problem, but it does present business and investors with a historic opportunity by signaling a new global consensus that the transition to a clean energy economy is underway.

The argument that the Paris Agreement is somehow antibusiness or will hurt our economy just doesn’t hold water. So I encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle to listen to American businesses and treat climate change as both the threat and opportunity that it is.

Mr. Chair, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our majority leader.

[Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.]

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, the overwhelming majority of scientists in the world, not just in the United States, believe that climate change is one of the major crises confronting the global community.

We went to Paris, and the world community got together and adopted an agreement that was voluntary in its implementation. No sovereignty was given up by any nation. They said that scientists say we have a crisis and that we need to respond to it.

My friend from Michigan who spoke earlier, Mr. Walberg, said that we ought to be focused on education, housing, healthcare, and job creation. He is right, but to ignore this problem is dangerous and unacceptable.

Climate change is perhaps one of the greatest threats we face as a nation and as a planet. Those who deny it do not just attack our health, security, and economic prosperity of our country.

H.R. 9 will not solve climate change. The first step in any journey does not get you there. But without it, you get nowhere.

House Democrats are laying down a marker today that we are committed to tackling this challenge with the seriousness it deserves.

Recognizing and combating climate change must be a global effort. This legislation prohibits the Trump administration from using any funds to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.

I tell my friends in the House that I believe the overwhelming majority of Americans support that proposition, as do the citizens of the world.

We have been the leader of the free world. Withdrawing from an agreement that was voluntarily entered into by over 170 nations shrugs off the mantle of leadership. If the United States withdraws, then we will be the only nation in the world not to be part of this historic agreement which embraces the goals previously set by our country—joined by the contribution of other nations—to reduce carbon pollution, promote technological innovation, and help avoid the most catastrophic consequences of climate change.

If we ignore the challenges of climate change, then we will also close ourselves off to opportunities to take the lead in the race to develop and deploy cleaner and more efficient technologies, which would create jobs and grow businesses and be a boon to our economy.

So I would suggest to my colleagues that those who argue against this bill argue not for economic progress, not for the creation of jobs, but exactly the opposite, and they deny the future; the future of the economy, the future of our health, the future of our environment, and the future of our children.

America, if it is to be great, must not sit on the sidelines and shrug like Atlas in confronting the rest of the world about our inaction on climate change. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my dear friend, Representative Kathy Castor, for her leadership as chair of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and for introducing H.R. 9.

I also want to thank Chairman Pallone and the Energy and Commerce Committee for their leadership. They have been key to moving this issue. All concluded we must have a concerted effort to address climate change, and House Democrats will continue to do our part. But this ought to be a bipartisan vote. Every citizen—Republicans, Democrats, and nonaffiliated—are going to be affected if we do not deal with climate change, and their children as well.

I look forward to bringing to the floor future legislation from our committees which seeks to tackle the climate crisis with substantive proposals, but I urge my colleagues: Let’s take this first step. Let’s say that we are not going to withdraw from the rest of the world. Let’s say we are going to continue to lead on an issue that there is a global consensus that we must deal with climate change. Take this step. Assert America’s leadership.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the distinguished leader for his statement.

I, too, wish this were a bipartisan bill. I do. I wish it were a bipartisan bill. Unfortunately, as the ranking member of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I found out about this from the press, not from the chairman of the committee. I found out from the press about this bill. That is not how you pursue bipartisan legislation. If there were a true attempt and a true desire to do bipartisan legislation, certainly this would have been handled differently.

Let me be clear, Mr. Chairman, I fully agree that the climate is changing. I agree that human activity is contributing to that change. I agree that there is something that we need to do about this, and we need to be aggressive.

As we heard from scientists just yesterday in the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, they have confirmed to us that the United States can eliminate all emissions, and we are still going to see warming. We are not going to see changes in the temperature if we eliminate all of our emissions.

Mr. Chairman, China, right now, is the top emitter. They are emitting 80 percent more than the United States. As a matter of fact, Greenpeace found last year they are actually increasing their emissions. Here we are, the United States, for about the last 20 years, the largest absolute reduction in emissions of any country in the world.

The Paris accord is fundamentally flawed. It is not the solution. We can eliminate all of our emissions, Mr. Chairman, and we could have countries like China that are allowed, under the Paris accords, to come in and more than replace all of our emissions.
pleased to be able to support the Climate Action Now Act, and I am immensely concerned about the dangers we face from climate change if we don't do something now. I think that most Americans agree that climate change is real, and we need to take action.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is fundamentally flawed. This whole agreement is fundamentally flawed. China has an entirely different metric to measure their emissions reduction than the United States, and they don't even have to reduce a single degree of emissions until after 2030.

Mr. Chairman, this is a flawed bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. Engel. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Matsui).

Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, which preserves our Nation’s commitment to the Paris Agreement and keeps our promise to the American people to take meaningful action on climate change.

The Paris Agreement paved the way for our Nation to develop a robust plan for cutting emissions which both threaten public health and contribute to global climate change. Part of this plan was to clean up the transportation sector, now the largest single source of emissions in the country.

My home State of California was critical in the effort to establish more stringent vehicle emissions standards. When the administration irresponsibly chose to abandon part of this plan by rolling back Obama-era vehicle emissions standards, I introduced legislation that would protect these standards and the benefits that they ultimately bring to our communities.

I am pleased to see so many of my congressional colleagues join me in proposing meaningful solutions to combat climate change, but we must do more. We must act together as a nation to lead the way.

Our Nation cannot afford to cede its international leadership. By not participating in the Paris Agreement, we risk irreparable damage to our planet and endanger the American people.

I think about my grandchildren, Anna and Robby. It is their future I am thinking about. They will be greatly impacted if we don’t do something now.

Tackling climate change is and always has been my top priority. We must act now to mitigate the effects of climate change before it is too late. I have spent the last decade helping lead on this effort. I am immensely pleased to be able to support the Climate Action Now Act on the floor today.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. McKinley), who is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. McKinley. Mr. Chairman, let’s be clear. We must have a global approach to the climate crisis, but giving a pass to countries like China and India subverts that process. Look at their record. Since 2001, there has been a 290 percent increase in emissions; India, 235. We have got a negative 16. We are reducing our emissions while other countries are not.

So because of their miserable record of curtailing greenhouse gases, we still, in America, across the country, in rural areas, are going to face droughts, wildfires, and sea level rise. Because of India and China, experts are saying that Miami, Florida, and Baltimore are still going to flood.

So let’s be honest. The Paris accord is really nothing more about political theater than actually addressing climate change.

Instead, we should have an agreement that is enforceable with legally binding targets and specific financial support that provides for liability or compensation for damages that could be caused, and an understanding that global communities are still fossil fuel driven.

America should not unilaterally transform our energy policies while gambling that other nations will voluntarily reduce their emissions. History and past agreements indicate other nations are not following the lead of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a “no” on H.R. 9.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to start off by saying that I respect the chairman. I respect his point of view, and I respect the arguments that have been made on this floor. I believe they are genuine. I believe that most Members of this Chamber agree that climate change is real and that climate change presents a risk.

I sat down with a scientist from NASA, which is in my home State. We talked about the data. He said: I am not a policymaker. Here is the data. Here is what is going to happen if we do nothing.

But I think, as the majority leader said, H.R. 9 does not solve this problem.

You have heard from my side of the aisle very genuine arguments about the cost to the economy, the fact that we have reduced our emissions but countries like China and India have doubled theirs. We want to get something done to solve this crisis, and I admit it is a crisis.

This bill is a messaging bill. It is a feel-good bill. It won’t get through the Senate. It will be vetoed by the White House. I submit to all those listening to this debate that when that happens, we work on something real, that is bipartisan.

We heard the ranking member from the new House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis say that he found out about this bill in the press. That is not a way to lead a bipartisan effort in the Congress.

So when this fails, and it will, I submit we go back to the drawing board and do things that we know do work, and that is let’s work on innovation, clean energy technologies, and, yes, nuclear power.

We are showing we are being a leader reducing our emissions while other countries are not. Let’s lead by example. Let’s come back with some real legislation that is going to make a difference, reduce emissions, and get us out of this crisis.

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

Mr. Engel. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me say that I am very glad that the Foreign Affairs Committee has jurisdiction over this bill.

I would also like to note for the Congressional Record that we have three additional Members who intended to cosponsor H.R. 9, Congresswoman Kaptur, Congresswoman Gabbard, and Congresswoman Underwood.

Let me also say that I include in the Record 9 letters in support of H.R. 9. Specifically, I have letters from a group of four dozen environmental organizations led by Oxfam; the Sierra Club; the Union of Concerned Scientists and others; the League of Conservation Voters; The Wilderness Society; EDF Action, which is an advocacy partner of the Environmental Defense Fund; BlueGreen Alliance, which is a coalition of the nation’s largest labor unions and environmental groups; the United Steelworkers; E2, which is a nonpartisan group of environmental entrepreneurs from across the country; Ceres and its BICEP Network, which is the Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy; and In Coalition, which is made up of over 3,750 U.S. businesses, cities, States, Tribes, colleges, universities, investors, faith groups, cultural institutions, and healthcare organizations; the NAACP, leading public health and medical organizations, including the American Lung Association, the American Public Health Association, and the Allergy & Asthma Network; and the American College of Physicians.
participation was crucial in bringing the world together to act. But now, by threatening to exit the agreement, the Trump administration risks isolating itself, undermining America’s leadership on a broad array of critical foreign policy issues.

Americans are experiencing climate change on a rising tide of extreme weather events, from hurricanes in the southeast, to wildfires in the west, to flooding right now in the country’s heartland. And polls consistently show that concern over the climate crisis is rising across generational, geographic, and partisan lines.

Americans’ personal experience is underscored by a raft of new scientific reports. Last fall the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that climate change is already happening, and ambitious action to curb carbon pollution is needed starting now to stave off steadily worsening impacts in the U.S. and across the globe. The last four years have been the hottest on record since global measurements began in 1880. By 2100, according to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Climate Assessment—prepared by 13 federal agencies and released by the Administration last year—lays out the stark reality of current climate impacts in all regions of the nation and projects how much worse they could get.

Without bold global action, the National Climate Assessment concludes: “rising temperatures, sea level rise, and changes in extreme events are expected to increasingly disrupt and damage critical infrastructure and property, labor productivity, and the vitality of our communities.” “[C]oastal economies and property are already at risk, especially in low-income and minority communities that depend on them, from America’s high Arctic to the landscapes and ways on the path to serious action on climate change.

This legislation demonstrates leadership and vision needed to tackle the climate crisis. We urge you to support the Climate Action Now Act to help make the future climate safe for our children and grandchildren and honor America’s commitments to confront this global challenge.


LCV. April 26, 2019.


House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the National Environmental Scorecard, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The Scorecard is distributed to LCV’s more than 130,000 concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

We write in strong support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. This important legislation honors America’s commitments to the Paris Agreement and stays on the path to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

Climate change is already having devastating impacts across the country and the world. More extreme storms, record-breaking floods, and raging wildfires are hurting our families and even taking people’s lives. It is unacceptable that these impacts and the burden of toxic pollution hit lower income, communities of color, and Indigenous peoples first and worst. Poll after poll shows that an overwhelming majority of voters—across ideological lines—want strong action on clean energy and climate solutions.

H.R. 9 is a strong rebuke of the Trump administration’s denial of the climate crisis, efforts to undermine progress, and ill-conceived decision to become the only country in the world to reject the landmark Paris Climate Agreement. In its utter failure of leadership, governors, mayors, universities, businesses, faith leaders, and investors are stepping up to support climate action to meet their own goals. This momentum is only growing. Just this year, six new governors have joined the U.S. Climate Alliance, bringing the total to 23 states and territories committed to meeting the Paris Climate Agreement’s goals. New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham signed into law legislation that moves the state’s electricity sector to 100% clean power by 2050. Governors Walz (MN), Evers (WI), and Mills (ME) have all announced plans to move their state to 100% clean energy. After passing both climate bills, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan signed into law legislation moving the state to 50% renewable energy by 2030. The Washington state legislature just passed a 100% clean energy bill. Maryland legislation passed a 50% clean energy bill by 2030, and a comprehensive 100% clean energy package has been introduced in Illinois.

After eight years of the Republican leadership in the U.S. House, taking us backwards in the fight against climate change, we are thrilled to see this important first step in the right direction and LCV urges you to support H.R. 9. If you are considering including votes on this bill in the 2019 Scorecard, if you need more information, please call my office and ask to speak with a member of our government relations team.

Sincerely, GENE KARPINSKI, President, The Wilderness Society.

HOB. FRANK PALLONE, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, DC.

HOB. GREG WALDEN, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy & Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE, RANKING MEMBER WALDEN, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE, On behalf of The Wilderness Society’s over one million members and supporters, I write in strong support of H.R. 9, The Climate Action Now Act. This legislation would take a necessary and welcome step to reestablish the United States as a global leader and to tackle climate change at the scale required to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis. The Wilderness Society urges you to vote for H.R. 9 when it is marked up in committee later this week.

Climate change represents the greatest threat facing our public lands and the communities that depend on them, from America’s thawing Arctic to regions devastated by extreme drought and floods. President Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change was a misguided step back from the world of leadership the world expects of America. By deliberately undermining the global agreement and reversing policies to address U.S. emissions, President Trump has moved the United States in the wrong direction at precisely the moment we need accelerated progress. H.R. 9 represents a much-needed step to confront the climate crisis by taking steps to prevent formal withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and requiring the Administration to develop a plan to meet national greenhouse gas targets.

The Wilderness Society believes that our 640 million acres of public lands can and must play a prominent role in addressing climate change in a responsible and equitable way. We have a significant opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel development on public lands; this bill explicitly accounts for more than 20% of all U.S. emissions, and supports responsibly-sited renewable energy projects. We must also protect large, connected landscapes, including our forests, deserts and other wild places that can help species adapt, store carbon, and provide natural infrastructure to safeguard communities from intensifying storms and extreme weather events. H.R. 9 takes an important first step in establishing a framework that allows for our public lands to be part of the climate solution, and no longer a significant contributor to the United States’ carbon footprint.

The Wilderness Society looks forward to seeing passage of this bill, without amendment, as a first step in solving the climate crisis, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Congress to make public lands part of our national solution to climate change.

Sincerely, DREW McCONNIVILL, Senior Managing Director, Government Relations, The Wilderness Society.
The Climate Action Now Act is a much-needed step toward reasserting American global leadership in the fight to solve climate change. This bill gives Congress the opportunity to take common sense action against one of our country’s most dangerous threats.

We need immediate action to reduce climate pollution and move our country toward 100% clean energy across the economy by 2050.

Taking action on climate change is necessary to:

- Protect our health and our kids’ future.
- Strengthen the U.S. economy through innovation and investment.
- Protect against trillions of dollars in damages.
- Allow America to lead the next technological and energy revolution.

**WHAT IS THE PARIS AGREEMENT?**

In 2015 in a historic breakthrough, virtually every country in the world came together and committed to addressing climate change by reducing emissions. The announcement, known as Paris Agreement, allows each country to make its own plan to fight pollution.

A recommitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement would show the world that America takes its promise to cut pollution seriously, encourage other nations to honor their climate pledges as well, and give America a stronger voice in ongoing climate negotiations.

**AMERICANS SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION**

The Trump administration has surrendered American leadership in the fight against climate change, isolating our country, and ignoring two-thirds of Americans who support climate action.

Recommitting to the Paris Agreement goals follows the lead of over 3,500 elected officials, and tribal, university, businesses, and faith leaders, representing millions of Americans, who have pledged to continue to support climate action.

**BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE**

Re BlueGreen Alliance Supports H.R. 9, Climate Action Now Act.

**House of Representatives, Washington, DC.**

**DEAR REPRESENTATIVE:** As a coalition of the nation’s largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, we write to express the BlueGreen Alliance’s support for H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

The United States’ adoption of the Paris Agreement was an historic step to lead in the fight against global climate change. The Trump Administration’s stated intention to withdraw from the agreement is a step back with dire consequences for the United States and the rest of the world. The effects of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country in the form of more frequent and severe extreme weather events, wildfires, droughts, and rising sea levels.

Removing the United States from the Agreement would be an abdication of our nation’s responsibility to the world and to future generations to lead in the fight against climate change. Our country can and should lead the world in driving the significant economic growth and job creation that can result from clean energy technologies and infrastructure needed to combat climate change.

**CENTRAL TO CLIMATE ACTION NOW**

The Paris Agreement is the central to climate action now. The Paris Agreement is a critical tool that our disposal to create a level playing field for U.S.-based manufacturing in the race against our global economic competitors to build the clean technologies of the future.

America is currently meeting the challenge of making our energy, transportation, and other systems cleaner and more efficient. We need immediate action to pull millions of people to work in jobs designed, manufacturing, and installing the clean energy technologies and infrastructure needed to respond to the climate crisis.

At the same time, we must ensure that the jobs we’re building in new clean technologies are quality, family-sustaining jobs, and we must address the challenges of this transition to ensure that no communities or workers are left behind by making available the tools and resources for workers to transition to new, good jobs and for communities to diversify their local and regional economies and create new opportunities.

**UNIFIED VOICE**

Ultimately, we have everything we need to meet our commitment made in the Paris Agreement. American innovation has the potential to lead the world in solving our environmental problems while creating good jobs for workers.

The Climate Action Now Act recognizes this reality and would block President Trump’s dangerous threat to remove the United States from the Paris Agreement and require the Administration to create a plan that demonstrates how the U.S. will go about meeting our commitments for climate change mitigation. By addressing climate change the right way—with investments in infrastructure and job training, and developing technologies of the future—our country can lead the world in driving the significant economic growth and job creation that comes from the design, manufacturing, and installation of the clean energy economy.

For these reasons, BlueGreen Alliance urges Congress to swiftly pass this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL WILLIAMS, Interim Co-Executive Director, BlueGreen Alliance.
the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities, and as the ef-
fects of climate change intensify, so too will
the stark differences in consequences experi-
ced by developed and the developing world.
Low-income populations and in America-
pian populations are colored in a way that
suffer more dire repercussions because of climate change.
From Hurricane Katrina in 2005, to the
more recent flooding in Houston due to Hur-
ricane Harvey in 2017, as well as numerous other
weather-related catastrophes including
heat waves, hurricanes, cyclones, and floods
we have witnessed the inconceivable loss of
life and property that can be caused by more
dangerous weather systems. The increased
fierceness of these storms is but one result of
climate change, yet it perhaps offers us the
best insight into its disparate impact. Low
income communities and racial and ethnic mi-
norities have fewer resources with which
they can prepare for, defend against, or use
to clean up after a disaster.
While H.R. 9 does not offer the resources
which are necessary to defend against a cri-
sis situation, it does make it less likely that
we will be faced with catastrophes on the scale to which we are growing sadly ac-
consequence. Specifically, H.R. 9 would
require that the United States remain a part
in and partner of the 2016 Paris agree-
ment on climate change. The United States
was once a global leader in pushing for cli-
mate action, but we have recently lost our
way. As a result, our progress and that of
some of our reductio ad absurdum situations
has dwindled and is now reversing itself.
There is no time to waste: we need to take
decisive action to address this increasing
problem while we still can. It is not an un-
derstatement to say that our future depends
upon it. Please support and vote for H.R. 9,
the Climate Action Now Act.
Sincerely,
HILARY O. SHELTON
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau and
Senior Vice President for Policy and
Advocacy.
APRIL 29, 2019.
DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned
public health and medical organizations urge
you to support H.R. 9, the Climate Action
Now Act, and help ensure the United States
adopts the science-based targets in the Paris Agreement and develops
a plan to meet them, both essential steps to
protecting public health from the impacts of
climate change.
Climate change is a public health emerg-
ency. Evidence clearly shows that com-
nunities across the nation are experiencing
the health impacts of climate change, in-
cluding enhanced conditions for ozone and
particulate matter, which cause asthma at-
acks, cardiovascular disease and pre-
mature death; increased instances of ex-
travagant heat, severe storms and other dista-
bilitating weather patterns that disrupt peo-
ple’s access to essential healthcare; in-
creased spread of vector-borne diseases; and
longer and more intense allergy seasons.
These threats are no longer hypothetical,
and Americans across the country have expe-
rienced them firsthand.
Every American’s health is at risk due to
climatic change, but some populations are at
greater risk, including infants, children, sen-
or, pregnant women, low-income commu-
nities, some communities of color, people with
chronic diseases. Evidence and experience
shows that these populations will disproporti-

nately bear the health impacts of climate
change without concerted action to both
mitigate and adapt to climate change.
The science is also clear that limiting in-
creases in global average temperatures to no
more than 1.5 degrees Celsius is essential. The
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
found dramatic differences in health impacts
between 1.5 and 2 degrees, including in heat-
related morbidity and mortality, ozone-re-
lated mortality, and vector-borne diseases.
The Paris Agreement’s goals are to keep the
world under 2 degrees Celsius and to
pursue efforts to further stay below 1.5 de-
grees.
H.R. 9 is an important step toward what
must become a comprehensive set of poli-
cies that protect public health from the worst
impacts of climate change. The nation urgently
needs to implement strong, science-based measures
to reduce the emissions that cause climate
change. The U.S. must also invest in health
adaptation strategies to help communities
address the varied health impacts they are
already facing.
On behalf of the patients and the communi-
ties we serve, we urge you to vote YES on H.R. 9,
the Climate Action Now Act.
Mr. ENGEL, I think that it is very
clear to say that this is a broad-based
bill, and I do hope that we will pass it.
We have the ability to work together
to do it.
I thank the ranking member for his
offering to work together. We have a tra-
dition of that on the Foreign Af-
airs Committee, and we will do it
again.
But climate change, global warming,
is a factor. We can put our heads in the
sand and it is not there, but it is there and it is big;
and if we don’t do something about it
soon, we are all going to pay the price
in the future.
Mr. Chair, I urge a “yes” vote for
this important bill, and I yield
back the balance of my time.
Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield
myself such time as I may consume.
I rise in strong support of H.R. 9, the
Climate Action Now Act.
President Trump’s decision to with-
draw from the Paris Agreement is un-
justified and, I believe, dangerous. It
abdicates U.S. leadership on climate
action and puts the health and safety of
our country at risk. It also jeopardizes our national and
economic security.
We can’t live in the past. China, the
EU, and others are moving towards a
low-carbon economy, building solar
panels, wind turbines, andcornering
the market on renewable industries.
We can and should be a leader in that
transition so that our industries, our
workers, and our communities benefit
from the new opportunities created.
The United States has always been at the
forefront in the creation of new technologies
and new jobs; but, rather than leading right now, President
Trump and his administration are simply
simply sticking their heads in the sand,
acting like this is the 19th century.
We have to be future oriented, not
live in the past, or we will simply be
left behind.
The President is actually making
climate crisis worse. The Trump ad-
ministration gutted regulations to con-
control methane pollution from the oil and
natural gas sector, rolled back fuel ef-
ciciency standards for vehicles, and il-
legally blocked improved appliance ef-
ciciency standards.
Their actions led to a rise in greenhouse
gas emissions last year.
Now, back in my district. I want you
to understand, this is not a partisan
issue. Everyone sees the harm climate
change is doing to our shoreline, our
oceans, and the health and well-being of our
residents.
States and local governments are
acting on climate change. They are
concerned about the health of their constituents, asthma who are nega-
tively impacted; air pollution that is aggra-
Ved by increased toxici-
A lot of Republican mayors and
the state legislature. And I
don’t know of one other
Republican mayor or elected official who
thinks that the Federal Government
should withdraw from climate action.
It is the cost of inaction that is real-
ly painful. We have all seen them. In
2017, the United States experienced 16
natural disasters with costs totaling
$360 billion. Superstorm Sandy hit my
district very hard.
But I want to say that we still have
time to avoid a deeper climate crisis,
while strengthening and modernizing
our economy at the same time, and
H.R. 9 is an important step in that
regard.
So—please—I call on my colleagues,
I beg my colleagues, let’s take this op-
portunity to prevent the withdrawal
from the Paris Agreement and, at the
same time, call upon this administra-
tion to come up with ways of achieving
the goal of the Paris Agreement.
Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance
of my time.
Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield
myself such time as I may consume.
Mr. Chairman, clearly, today is,
fortunately, more about the politics of
climate change than actually rolling up
our sleeves and getting to work on
American solutions.
Climate change is real, but address-
ing climate change should not involve
binding ourselves to international
agreements that put United States
workers and jobs at a disadvantage to
our main competitors around the world
and with no regard to the cost for
American consumers.
We should have a serious, solutions-
oriented discussion about how to ad-
dress climate change risks through
American innovation, American conservation, and preparation.

But we all know that long-term, sustainable policy is best developed through a thoughtful, logical, and strong bipartisan process. That is the approach we have taken over the last several Congresses. As Republicans and one I think we should continue in this Congress.

In fact, in the last Congress, Republicans worked with Democrats to remove voluntary barriers to new technological advances in power generation, from hydropower to small modular nuclear, from tax policies that actually encourage carbon capture and storage to reforms of the nation’s electric grid.

There are many bipartisan policies Congress could further pursue to accelerate innovation and to create industrial, electrical, and technological infrastructure that actually will enable cleaner energy systems for the future; such as, furthering advanced nuclear reactor technologies, easing the permitting of clean-energy infrastructure, and modernizing our electric grid.

We need to do all of those, Mr. Chairman.

We can also look to better management of our Federal forests to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, which chokes the communities, like those in my home State of Oregon, with smoke and fill our atmosphere with untold pollutants.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that sustainably managing our Federal forests—in fact, all forests—will create the longest sustained carbon mitigation benefit. Those are the findings of the U.N. IPCC.

But H.R. 9, just does not represent that kind of bipartisan policy that we should be considering today. This bill is being considered, frankly, without the benefit of regular order in any committee of jurisdiction. It has no companion in the United States Senate.

H.R. 9 represents the Democrats’ reflexive response to the President’s June 1, 2017, announcement that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement.

Now, the Obama administration’s commitments in Paris were made without a clear plan to even meet those provisions, without a full view of the costs to consumers, and certainly without a strategy that had broad bipartisan support from Congress.

Further, H.R. 9’s unquestioning focus on U.S. domestic action ignores the evidence that the bulk of the future global emissions growth will be in China, it will be in India and the rest of the developing world.

If implemented, it would lock in the United States to expensive commitments that will harm consumers; our communities; and, frankly, our economic security.

Republicans offered a number of amendments to debate these matters, but, unfortunately, most of those amendments were rejected by Democrats.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are serious about reducing emissions and addressing other climate change risks, and doing so quickly, they would acknowledge the reality of global energy needs. They would acknowledge that the United States is reducing greenhouse gas emissions through innovation and through technological development, no country better than any country on the planet.

That is what we are doing as Americans. That is what we do. We innovate. We lead. And we are doing that in emissions reduction; we are doing that with new energy technologies; and that is where we should be focused as a Congress to incentivize those going forward.

Now, instead of spending a week of precious legislative time talking about a bill that, frankly, has little teeth, will never move in the Senate, would get vetoed by the President if it ever got to his desk, we could be legislating on how to ease the overly burdensome hydroelectric licensing process.

The Northwest is a great place for hydroelectricity. We know a lot about it, and it has zero carbon emissions.

Or we could be passing bills that support nuclear energy. You look at the small modular nuclear technologies that are on the cusp of an energy future for baseeload power, and you understand just what that could be, with no emissions.

We could either do that through licensing reform or through these advanced technologies.

Let’s focus on the new technology necessary for future energy systems, for future transportation systems, for advances in manufacturing and industry to emit fewer greenhouse gases. That is what we should be doing.

Let’s work together on the bills that are going to lead to ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new energy infrastructure or to getting a new, well-paid job in the energy industry.

That infrastructure could be a wind farm. It could be a natural gas pipeline. That new job could be as a solar installer, or it could be a nuclear engineer.

I am not talking about picking winners and losers here when it comes to energy, the environment, or the climate. I am talking about unleashing American innovators to do what they do best, and that is develop new and better technologies that benefit consumers, benefit the environment, and benefit the good, old United States of America.

So I should reject H.R. 9 and focus on realistic solutions to prepare for the future and on policies that work for the American public.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McNerney), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. McNerney.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for allowing me 2 minutes.

We are here today to talk about a global problem that demands a global solution. Since the Industrial Revolution, a significant amount of carbon has been building up in the atmosphere; and, until just recently, the United States was the number one emitter of carbon pollution.

As China ramped up its emissions, we lost that dubious title, but we are still dumping massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

This carbon in the atmosphere has caused energy to accumulate in the oceans and the skies, and that is now causing changes in our environment. And these changes will continue to grow.

The global solution we need is one that the United States actually had a hand in creating. We led the efforts in the development and adoption of the Paris climate accord; but now, because of this administration’s decision, we are telling the world to do as we say, not as we do.

The Paris climate accord is one of the most comprehensive deals to date and is a worldwide agreement to begin reducing carbon emissions. It is the important first step in the battle to stop the dangerous spiral of climate change.

If we retreat from the Paris accord, we are condemning future generations to a world filled with catastrophic climate change and conflict.

H.R. 9 help heal this rift by putting us in alignment with the rest of the global community and holding us to standards that we helped put in place.

My Republican colleagues say they believe in climate change but have always offered an approach that will never reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Paris climate agreement isaction. Let’s get with the program.

The United States has led by example, so, today, I inform my colleagues: Adopt H.R. 9. Don’t make us the past for future generations.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), a very important member of our committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, put simply, this legislation forces President Trump’s hand to carry out the goals of his predecessor, but this administration was elected to tackle our energy issues differently, our environmental issues differently.

Americans asked for this change in direction. And we got that last Congress, where Republicans worked with this administration to find creative ways to streamline the development and use of all of our energy sources and technologies.

We examined grid modification issues, looked at ways to encourage the creation and adoption of advanced nuclear energy, along with creative ways to encourage new coal and natural gas technologies.

We looked at how market forces are driving new energy technologies and
how the Federal Government can play a supportive role in that advancement, not pick winners and losers.

I worry that today's legislation could bring us back to a prescriptive approach to our Federal energy policy. It could cause significant ratepayer hikes on fossil fuels, but we in eastern and southeastern Ohio who simply cannot absorb higher electric bills.

H.R. 9 was rushed through our committees. The Energy and Commerce Committee held only a 10-minute hearing and then simply a full committee markup. Members had no time to debate it—only vote.

E&G Democrat leadership even expressed frustration over the expedited pace of this bill.

Because of these reasons and the issues raised by my colleagues, I urge a “no” vote on H.R. 9.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. DINGELL), another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, that is laid before this House now for final consideration.

“The Earth’s climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization.” This is a direct quote from the Fourth National Climate Assessment issued by our top scientists from across 13 government agencies.

Sea levels are rising; average temperatures are warming; ice is disappearing; and extreme weather is intensifying and becoming more frequent. And we know that in this Chamber, because we are dealing with the consequences of the hurricanes, the fires, too often because of our constituents that are being hurt.

We know this is affecting the lives of growing numbers of Americans all across the country. And even as I stand here, right now, we have floods in my district.

Climate change is an urgent, existential threat we all face, and bold action is demanded at this moment. We have to act together, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans.

We don’t change treaties. We don’t change things because we have had a change in who has been elected President. We respect that office. The consequences of inaction are real, and not only are future generations put at risk each day if we do nothing, so are we.

This begins by ensuring America honors its commitment under the Paris Agreement. Withdrawing is not the answer.

The Climate Action Now Act would simply prevent the United States from using Paris as a basis to withdraw from the Paris Agreement; and calls on the President to develop and make public a plan for how the United States will meet its nationally-determined contributions submitted to the world in 2015.

The bill is technology-neutral, so the President has the flexibility to set climate policies and marshal renewable forms of energy. I urge my colleagues to support the bill simply because it is the right thing to do.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, President Trump has made clear what climate action he doesn’t like. He doesn’t like the Paris Agreement, which contemplated that every nation in the world would set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

He doesn’t like the Clean Power Plan, which encouraged each State to create its own strategy to lower greenhouse gas emissions. And he doesn’t like the CAFE standards that required automakers to lower emissions from cars and trucks.

Now, last month, the President’s own EPA administrator came to the Energy and Commerce Committee, and he testified, and he testified that climate change is happening, and that it is driven largely by human activity.

So the question is, what climate action does President Trump support? And that is the point of the Climate Action Now Act, which simply invites the President to tell us his strategy.

Now, there are many options, many bipartisan options, many mentioned by my colleague from Oregon, Mr. Walden. These are increasing research into energy storage technologies, pricing carbon, incentivizing more renewable energy, requiring or incentivizing energy efficiency, easing regulation for developing renewables, developing carbon capture and negative emissions technology, or investing in resiliency and more.

And we don’t even need the President to draft new ideas. We have got existing bills from the last Congress and from this Congress, which we have assembled into the Climate Playbook, which you can find right on my Congressional website.

Mr. President, we get that you don’t like President Obama’s climate action ideas. Now tell us your climate action plans.

I encourage each of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to join me in making that request to President Trump by supporting and passing H.R. 9. Congress has a climate playbook.

Mr. President, tell us yours.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Sablan). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Schweikert) to speak on this matter.

Mr. Schweikert. Mr. Chairman, I am probably going to be a little different than some of the folks you are going to have come speak from our side. I actually, though, like the goal that we agreed to, or the President agreed to in 2015.

I believe it is an abdication, though, of our responsibility to actually build what the plan is—we will call it the Clean Power Plan—right there because, if you think about it, once again, it is Congress passing the buck saying, well, here’s the goal; let someone else take the blows of it.

So if we are going to have an honest conversation, let’s say I am a State that uses a lot of coal, but is functionally filthy. Okay. Are you willing to encourage that community, that State, to allow more natural gas extraction, more pipelines so we can actually hit the numbers? Or is it easier passing it on to the White House to let them take the slings and arrows of what it takes policy-wise?

If you actually look at the reality, 2015, the year that President Obama agreed to this, that year, every functioning benefit from all of the solar that was adopted is proved because of the amount of nuclear that went offline that year. Are we ready here to step up and say, hey, if we want baseload, clean, non-CO, non-greenhouse emitting, we are going to step up and get this nuclear back online, because it is a type—just that 1 year of the number of nuclear facilities that closed equaled every solar panel in the country that was added.

Are we willing to continue to do as we did in Ways and Means last year, moving forward with carbon sequestration tax credits?

Turns out there is some new amazing technology of mining CO2 right out of the air. There is a utility scale, industrial scale facility going up in Canada that has broken the Holy Grail on the code on how to do it. These are pro-growth policies that we, as this body, should be adopting, not passing it off to the bureaucracy and the administration to make the hard choices.

Understand, we did some math a couple of years ago and that, if we would do a pipeline loop in West Texas to capture methane flare-off, capture that gas and make it—utilize it, it had a huge effect in getting us, like right now, that last 13 points of gap that we have to get in the next 7 years.

How many of my brothers and sisters on the other side are ready to stand up and promote more natural gas, more pipelines, more tax credit mechanisms for carbon sequestration? Those are policy decisions. That is our job here in the House.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. Tonko), who is the chairman of our Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee.

Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership as chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.
Certainly, as chair of the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, I understand the prioritization that we need to make as a House with climate change. We are doing it with this caucus, with the Democrats and the Republicans alike, to show that we have diverged without a policy or hearings in the committee for quite some time and, finally, the Democrats are showing their forcefulness.

Global problems require global cooperation, and we accept this as a given when it comes to countless security, health, and economic challenges. And climate change will impact all of these areas, and more.

But global climate action will not succeed without America at the table, leading by example. Other nations understand this, as do thousands of United States cities, businesses, universities, and nonprofit organizations. That is why the “We Are Still In” campaign was formed, and why its many members support this bill. The contributions of subnational actors can achieve two-thirds of our 2025 national commitment, but we need Federal action to fill the gap.

President Trump has made it clear that he does not appreciate the previous administration’s policies to achieve America’s Paris target. Therefore, do we have a very fair question of you. What is your plan?

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have taken the opposite approach, throwing up their hands and saying this bill is a waste of time because the President would veto it. I could not disagree more. This vote will show the American people and the international community who in Washington understands and acknowledges the threat of climate change; who recognizes the overwhelming advantage of the United States in leading this transition; who understands there are companies around the world that will lead to meaningful emissions reductions and accelerate the clean energy transition. We can start that transition by cutting emissions by almost 20 percent. Since 2000, the U.S. has led the world in reducing emissions.

Based on the President’s statements, there are companies around the world that will lead to meaningful emissions reductions and accelerate the clean energy transition. We can start that transition by cutting emissions by almost 20 percent. Since 2000, the U.S. has led the world in reducing emissions.

In the Permian Basin in West Texas, we went from producing a million barrels of oil a day in 2012 to four million today, and we are on a path to producing 8 million barrels a day within just a few years. The lion’s share of America’s energy supply, nearly 90 percent, comes from our fossil energy resources, and the hard-working energy producers of West Texas are leading the way. This is thanks to the great American work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and drive for innovation.

But when it comes to climate change, the lion’s share of America’s energy supply, nearly 90 percent, comes from our fossil energy resources, and the hard-working energy producers of West Texas are leading the way. This is thanks to the great American work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and drive for innovation.

In the Permian Basin in West Texas, we went from producing a million barrels of oil a day in 2012 to four million today, and we are on a path to producing 8 million barrels a day within just a few years. The lion’s share of America’s energy resources have allowed us to become the most powerful and prosperous nation on the face of the planet. It has allowed us to build the largest middle class in the world; helped us to produce the new technologies and innovations that have improved the quality of life and given us the highest standard of living in the world.

It has been the lifeblood of this land of opportunity, where we now have more jobs than we actually have people to fill them.

Having an abundant supply of energy doesn’t just fuel this economy. It also is an overwhelming advantage in terms of national security. Energy independence gives us choices that many nations would be envious of. It allows us to export that same freedom to our allies and to democracies around the world.

Forcing our President to stay in this terrible deal would undermine many of those advantages, and it would penalize the American people, and cost hundreds of billions of dollars. It would cost us millions of jobs.

At best, the Paris Agreement is a feel-good-do-nothing political window dressing, at best. At worst, it is a tax on the middle and working class. It is a millstone around the neck of our job creators.

It is a gift to our enemies, and we must oppose it.

It would punish the American people. It would punish our children and their future in this country.

Look, I want responsible stewardship of that national security. Like everybody in this Chamber, I want clean water and clean air for my kids. But I also want them to grow up in the safest, strongest, freest nation in the world.

The President has said that the United States is leading this debate. We are leading in our actions.

Mr. WALDEN. I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ARRINGTON. The irony of this discussion is that we have a very fair question of you. What is your plan?

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I don’t believe we have any other speakers on our side, so I will conclude my comments and then be happy to hear from the chairman of the committee. I think we have had a good debate here, a thorough debate, and at the end of the day, it is important to remember that America is actually leading, through new innovation and technology in the energy sector, the reduction in emissions. Again, we are leading as a country.

You look at other countries, competitors of ours like China, wouldn’t have to begin making reductions until 2030. Meanwhile, we are supposed to shut down our economy in a lot of ways if you go down certain paths. We don’t think we should take that bargain. We don’t think we have to take that bargain. Instead, Republicans believe we should continue to rely on a great innovators in America to develop our great new technologies to reduce emissions and produce power like the Northwest on catastrophic fire alert every year, everyone out west knows full well that climate change is a real and serious threat that needs addressing.

To that end, we cannot abdicate the United States’ very serious responsibility to lead the world in curbing the effects of climate change. That is why I have strongly opposed the President’s reckless decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which has seriously damaged U.S. credibility on the world stage.

The Paris Agreement stresses the dire importance of international cooperation in combating the climate crisis. We must work together with countries around the world if we are to achieve any sort of meaningful dent in greenhouse gas emissions.

I am proud that my State of Oregon remains committed to the goals of the Paris Agreement, but one State’s efforts cannot combat climate change alone. We need the Climate Action Now Act to keep the entire country committed to the Paris Agreement.

I urge support for the bill.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.
the world that are figuring out how to remove carbon from the atmosphere and use it for another purpose. Republicans led the effort on tax credits to say let's incentivize you to put carbon into other use or into the ground, and we will then give you a bigger incentive to put it in the ground.

We should be doing more in the area of advanced battery research, like being done at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory across the river from Oregon, and get to where we can harness the available intermittent power sources to more firm power; and the same with streamlining hydro, with pump storage.

There is a lot we can do working together to make sure we have a safe, secure, reliable grid that is adequate to make all this seamlessly work together because, at the end of the day, we want to make sure we don't have riots in the streets because you have driven up costs too high, like they are having in France. We want to make sure that we are creating the jobs and technology here, because if somebody is going to lead this effort internationally, it should be us.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is going nowhere as it is today, and I would urge opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I have listened to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, particularly the last two speakers, and it just seems that they are trying to invent something that doesn't exist.

They talk about jobs. They talk about innovation. They talk about the freedom to let people do what they want, but what is really happening here is the Trump administration is actually trying to force the old ways, saying we can't, maybe coal is not as competitive as it used to be, but we will find a way to make it competitive.

We will find a way to say that fossil fuels have a future where they can be used even more so.

Government policy has to lead innovation. That is what it is all about. What we are seeing is that our competitors like China, for example, realize that renewables are the future. They realize that the fossil fuels and continuous use of coal, for example, are actually polluting the environment, so they are taking the lead and they are creating innovative technologies, and they are creating the jobs that go along with it.

A few years ago, if I can use my home State of New Jersey, when Governor Christie was first elected, a Republican Governor in New Jersey, he started out by saying that he was going to have wind turbines built in New Jersey. He was going to have us manufacture solar panels. He was going to have us be the renewable center for the country. Then, very quickly after that, when he decided to run for President, he dropped all that and actually pulled out of RGGL, our regional agreement.

And what happens? The other States or the other countries, they start developing these new technologies, and they then corner the market on things like those panels.

More and more of those are being manufactured in China and then shipped over here. So we lose the competitive edge that we would have had through innovation that is essentially driven by good government. The thing that always happens is we lose the jobs and our economy falls behind.

You know, the same thing is true with climate disasters. My district was more impacted by Superstorm Sandy than any other district in the country. What happens? You know, we lose jobs. Our tourism economy was destroyed in the summer because there was so much damage and destruction. People lost their jobs; they had to look elsewhere; their income dropped all that and actually pulled out of RGGL, our regional agreement.

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Government policy has to lead innovation. That is what it is all about. What we are seeing is that our competitors like China, for example, realize that renewables are the future. They realize that the fossil fuels and continuous use of coal, for example, are actually polluting the environment, so they are taking the lead and they are creating innovative technologies, and they are creating the jobs that go along with it.

A few years ago, if I can use my home State of New Jersey, when Governor Christie was first elected, a Republican Governor in New Jersey, he started out by saying that he was going to have wind turbines built in New Jersey. He was going to have us manufacture solar panels. He was going to have us be the renewable center for the country. Then, very quickly after that, when he decided to run for President, he dropped all that and actually pulled out of RGGL, our regional agreement.

And what happens? The other States or the other countries, they start developing these new technologies, and they then corner the market on things like those panels.

More and more of those are being manufactured in China and then shipped over here. So we lose the competitive edge that we would have had through innovation that is essentially driven by good government. The thing that always happens is we lose the jobs and our economy falls behind.

You know, the same thing is true with climate disasters. My district was more impacted by Superstorm Sandy than any other district in the country. What happens? You know, we lose jobs. Our tourism economy was destroyed in the summer because there was so much damage and destruction. People lost their jobs; they had to look elsewhere; their income dropped all that and actually pulled out of RGGL, our regional agreement.

We should be doing more in the area of advanced battery research, like being done at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory across the river from Oregon, and get to where we can harness the available intermittent power sources to more firm power; and the same with streamlining hydro, with pump storage.

There is a lot we can do working together to make sure we have a safe, secure, reliable grid that is adequate to make all this seamlessly work together because, at the end of the day, we want to make sure we don’t have riots in the streets because you have driven up costs too high, like they are having in France. We want to make sure that we are creating the jobs and technology here, because if somebody is going to lead this effort internationally, it should be us.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is going nowhere as it is today, and I would urge opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I have listened to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, particularly the last two speakers, and it just seems that they are trying to invent something that doesn't exist.

They talk about jobs. They talk about innovation. They talk about the freedom to let people do what they want, but what is really happening here is the Trump administration is actually trying to force the old ways, saying we can't, maybe coal is not as competitive as it used to be, but we will find a way to make it competitive.

We will find a way to say that fossil fuels have a future where they can be used even more so.

Government policy has to lead innovation. That is what it is all about. What we are seeing is that our competitors like China, for example, realize that renewables are the future. They realize that the fossil fuels and continuous use of coal, for example, are actually polluting the environment, so they are taking the lead and they are creating innovative technologies, and they are creating the jobs that go along with it.

A few years ago, if I can use my home State of New Jersey, when Governor Christie was first elected, a Republican Governor in New Jersey, he started out by saying that he was going to have wind turbines built in New Jersey. He was going to have us manufacture solar panels. He was going to have us be the renewable center for the country. Then, very quickly after that, when he decided to run for President, he
bill sends a signal to the private sector that a stable framework for action will be put in place, enabling private actors to invest, innovate, and inspire further action.

It promotes the transition to a clean economy. And perhaps, most importantly, it sends a strong and much needed signal to the rest of the world about the seriousness of the United States in addressing climate change. It restores meaningful international engagement.

The United States has been a leader in global initiatives on climate solutions before and should be again. This Congress has shown progress, and I have worked to re-establish the U.S.’s climate leadership. On the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, we have held hearings examining the findings of major climate reports, discussing the warming, degradation of our oceans, and how our interconnected energy and water systems are being stressed by a changing climate. The House Science Committee has marked up four bipartisan bills that address ocean acidification, as well as the Energy and Water Development bills, which I reintroduced as a colleague and Ranking Member of the House Science Committee, Mr. LUCAS. It instructs the Department of Energy to incorporate the consideration of water use and treatment into all of its relevant research, development, and demonstration programs. We hope to continue the momentum of discussion and action on climate change, and urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

Mr. ENGEL, Mr. Chair, I include in the Record the following letters of support for H.R. 9.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, Congress will soon vote on legislation that would compel the Trump administration to honor and plan for meeting the United States’ commitment under the Paris Agreement. We, the undersigned members of E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), strongly urge you to vote in support of this bill to ensure that we continue to focus on actions to protect our climate and grow our economy.

E2 is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders who advocate for smart policies to create new markets that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 100,000 jobs, and have invested more than $100 billion in venture and private equity capital.

As business leaders, investors and professionals from every sector of the economy who live or do business in every state, we understand the enormous economic promise that can arise if the United States leads on this issue and stays a party to the Paris Agreement.

Thanks in part to federal leadership, more than 15,000 new jobs now work on energy and vehicles jobs. These are residents of every state who go to work every day installing solar panels on homes and commercial buildings, manufacturing wind turbines, and making our homes, schools, vehicles and offices more efficient. By honoring our obligations in the Paris Agreement, America can continue to drive demand for innovative technologies and industries that grow our economy and create jobs.

Studies show that delivering on the Paris Agreement will work to add at least $3 trillion to the U.S. economy every year in economic growth globally. The international clean energy market is already worth an astounding $1.4 trillion a year—and set to become America’s share of the $3 trillion line at $200 billion annually. This economic activity could fuel an additional $21 billion in GDP growth in the United States alone by 2020, which would also provide greater opportunities for U.S. businesses to lead in emerging clean economy markets.

The Paris Agreement is good for American businesses and its workers. Ensuring that we maintain our obligations under this historic agreement is a chance to ensure America leads in the manufacture of transportation, infrastructure, technology and other sectors instead of falling behind our overseas competitors.

We urge you to vote in favor of legislation that keeps the Paris Agreement in place and creates a plan for meeting our nation’s commitments.

Sincerely,

382 E2 BUSINESS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Dan Abrams (California), President/CEO, Wynkoop Properties; Clifford Adams (New York), Managing Director, Coady Diemar Partners; Hartwig Adam, Google, Milo Aguilar (Illinois), Consultant, Sumac Consulting; Shauna Alexander (Oregon), Vice President, Sustainability Stumpum Coffee Roasters; Annick Anctil (Michigan), Assistant Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Michigan State University.

Trevor Anderson (California), Policy Manager, Climate Program and Applegate (Colorado), Senior Manager, Business Funding & Incentives, Business Investments, OEDIT; Esteban Arenas; Gerald L. Armes, Principal, Abge Holst, Arqut Niederberger (California), VP, Market Development, Everence; John Ahterton (Pennsylvania); Michael Atkins (California), Communications and Impact Manager, Friends of the Los Angeles River; Betsy Aubrey (California); Marta Badon (Louisiana); Ravi Bajja (California); Claire Baldwin (California); Jay Baldwin (California), Co-Founder, Wind River Capital Partners, LLC.

Fred Bambr (California), Managing Director, Spartina LLC; Tom Bartley, President, E2; Ryan Apple (Colorado), Senior Manager, Business Funding & Incentives, Business Investments, OEDIT; Esteban Arenas; Gerald L. Armes, Principal, Abge Holst, Arqut Niederberger (California), VP, Market Development, Everence; John Ahterton (Pennsylvania); Michael Atkins (California), Communications and Impact Manager, Friends of the Los Angeles River; Betsy Aubrey (California); Marta Badon (Louisiana); Ravi Bajja (California); Claire Baldwin (California); Jay Baldwin (California), Co-Founder, Wind River Capital Partners, LLC.

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Senior Climate & Sustainability Coordinator, City of Boulder, CO; Gabriella Keyles (California), Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, Future 500; John Kibler; Peter Kirby; John Kipling (Connecticut), President, Michigan Morley, Vice President; Leonard Kissinger (Massachusetts), President, Stevenson Energy Management; Mike Kissinger (California), Bingham McPutting LLP; Virginia Klausmeier (California), CEO, The Parish Fund; Charles Knowland (California), Principal, Evar GIS Consulting; Eric Kommich (California), Principal, Clean Energy Ventures; Robert Kominsky (California), President, The Parish Fund; Charles Knowland (California), Principal, Evar GIS Consulting; Eric Kommich (California), Principal, Clean Energy Ventures; Robert Kominsky (California), President, The Parish Fund; Charles Knowland (California), Principal, Evar GIS Consulting; Eric Kommich (California), Principal, Clean Energy Ventures; Robert Kominsky (California), President, The Parish Fund; Charles Knowland (California), Principal, Evar GIS Consulting; 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Founder and Board Member, California Clean Tech Open; Jan Schalkwijk (California), Investment Adviser, JPS Global Investments; David Schwartz (California), Tom Sciacca (Massachusetts), President, Intelligence Energy Systems; Brad Seaman (Colorado), Director of Project Finance, Scout Clean Energy; Li, Gen (ret) Noman Selp (Virginia), Owner, Noman Selp, LLC; Annalyn Grymes (California), CEO, ALIO Inc.; Christopher Senger (Illinois), Owner, Penguine Energy Services LLC; Joel Serfae (Colorado), Managing Director.

Douglas Shackleford (District of Columbia), Managing Partner, Excellerate; Jigar Shah (Massachusetts), President and Founder, Generate Capital; Cathleen Shattuck (Washington), Creative Director, eviuma; Rebecca Shaw (California), World Wildlife Fund; Scott Shetler (North Carolina), CEO, TopBuild Home Services; Greg Simon (California); Barbara Simons (California), Research Staff Member, Retired, IBM Research; Divya Singh (California), Project Finance Associate, Cypress Creek Renewables; Ian Skor (Colorado), Co-Founder, Sandbox Solar.

Joshua Skov (Oregon), Industry Mentor and Adjunct Professor, University of Oregon, Lundquist College of Business; Jon Slangerup (California), Chairman and CEO, American Global Logistics; Brian Smith (Texas), Managing Partner,圍, Telenor Capital; Michael Smith (California), Founder, Adaptation Research; Patrick Smith (New York), New Mobility CEO, NYC Department of Transportation; Richard Smith, Doctor; Ethan Soloviev (New York); Roger Sorkin (Massachusetts), Executive Producer, American Experience; Rachel Stern (California), Senior Environmental Specialist, Port of San Diego.

Naomi Stern (California), CEO and President, MugenKioku Corporation; Eric Strid (Washington), Co-Founder and Retired CEO, Cascade Microtech; Robert Sullivan (Illinois), Dean, UCSD; Mark Sylvia (Massachusetts), Managing Director, Blue Wave ESG Takmaz (Illinois), Energy, Energy Resources Center; Russ Teall (California), President and Founder, Biodico; Troy Teall (California), VP Operations, Biodico; Andrew Takmaz (Illinois), Energy, Energy Resources Center; Russ Teall (California), President and Founder, Biodico; Troy Teall (California), VP Operations, Biodico; Andrew Takmaz (Illinois), Energy, Energy Resources Center; Emma Tovar (Colorado).

Carrie Thomaides (Colorado), Consultant; Todd Thorner (District of Columbia).

Douglas Tribach (North Carolina), Vice President and Director, Lighting Services, Energy 4 Impact; Patricia Trick (California), Manager, Rivermoor Energy; Elisa Townshend (Colorado), Ian Tran (Michigan), Special Projects Strategist, AGI Construction Solutions; Todd Travalle (Nebraska), Director, USA Insulation, Ultra Capital; Dave Welch (California), Retired, Investment Banker; John Vernacchia (Pennsylvania), Segment Manager, Alternative Energy, Eaton Corporation; Ariana Vito (California), Sustainability Analyst/EV Program Coordinator, City of Los Angeles; Paiva Vohra (Massachusetts), Owner, consultant, Green Elements LLC; Dan Von Seggern (Washington), Staff Attorney, The Center for Environmental Law & Policy; David Wals; David Watson (California), Director & Investor, Ultra Capital; Dave Welch (California), President, Infilera Corporation; Heidi Welch (California).

Ian Welch (California) Jordan Wildish (Washington), Research Analyst, Earth Economic Systems; Engineering PM, USPs; Bruce Wilson (Pennsylvania), Owner Bruce Wilson Contracting; Tonia Wisman (California). Andrea Witten (Pennsylvania), Bruno, Sarah Wolbert (Minnesota), Architect, Piece Work Design; Gary Wolfe (California), Founder, 3E Engineering; Garrett Wong (California), Sr. Sustainability Analyst, City of Santa Monica.

Bryndis Woods (Massachusetts), Researcher, Applied Economics Clinic; Christopher Woodward (Massachusetts), Vice President, Credit Research, Breckinridge Capital Advisors; HansJorg Wyss (Massachusetts); Leila Yasssa (Massachusetts); Denny Young (California); Mark Yuschak (New Jersey); Instructor, Thomas Shortman; Peter Zahn (California), President and Director, Moxie Foundation; Rosamund Zander (Massachusetts), Chief Executive Officer and Independent Design Center for the Environment.

I am happy to connect further on this issue and answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to follow up.

Sincerely,

ANN L. KELLY, Vice President, Government Relations.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LEADING INTERNAL MEDICINE, IMPROVING LIVES.

Washington, DC, May 1, 2019.

HON. KATHY CASTOR, Representative of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. CASTOR: On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the Climate Action Now Act (H.R. 9), which directs the United States to uphold its commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease in patients, and we all need to be part of finding a solution.

Because physicians are on the front lines of patient care, they are witnessing—their patients—the harmful health effects that climate change can and does have on the human body. These harmful effects include: higher rates of respiratory and heat-related illnesses, increased prevalence of vector-borne and waterborne diseases, food and water insecurity, and malnutrition, as outlined in ACP’s 2016 position paper, “Climate Change: The Importance of Public Health,” published in the Journal of the American College of Physicians. People who are elderly, sick, or poor are especially vulnerable to these potential consequences. As climate change worsens, the physical effects of climate change on every person are expected to become more common and severe, increasing the risk of heat exhaustion. Asthma disorders are still in include members from all 50 states and represent $9.46 trillion of the American economy—demonstrating significant real economy support for U.S. participation in the Paris Climate Agreement.

Remain in the Paris Climate Agreement is essential for the U.S. to retain a seat at the table, contribute in a positive manner to global mitigation efforts, and meet the deep ambition among U.S. businesses to fight climate change and protect from the worst economic impacts associated with a warming world.

As companies across the United States, BICEP recognizes that a zero-carbon economy is necessary to both avoid an catastrophic impacts of climate change and ensuring that the scale and speed necessary to reflect our latest understanding of the science. Maintaining our participation in the Paris Agreement is one such policy strategy that the U.S. should retain.

On behalf of the businesses in our BICEP network, I respectfully request that you vote in support of H.R. 9, The Climate Action Now Act when it comes up for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am happy to connect further on this issue and answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to follow up.

Sincerely,

ANN L. KELLY, Vice President, Government Relations.
Yutu, just before landfall in the Marianas, is climate change. But science tells us that global warming means more frequent and more intense storms of the kind that hit the Marianas.

And we know the sudden increase in intensity of one such typhoon, Super Typhoon Yutu, just before landfall in the Marianas, is characteristic of a new normal caused by higher atmospheric temperatures and warmer ocean waters. We saw the same acceleration of force as Hurricane Michael came ashore in the Gulf last year.

Today, Congress has an opportunity to act to slow climate change and reduce the disasters being caused. We can vote to return the United States to the company of nations that is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement of 2015. I support H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

There are those who argue it is too expensive to lower carbon pollution of our planet’s atmosphere. But science tells us that reducing greenhouse gas emissions will save us, and the United States, billions in damage. We can vote to return the United States to the company of nations that is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement of 2015. I support H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired. Pursuant to the rules, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read. The text of the bill is as follows: H.R. 9

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE

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 “Climate Action Now Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS. Congress finds the following:

(1) In Paris, on December 12, 2015, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable, low carbon future.

(2) The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

(3) The Paris Agreement requires all parties to put forward their best efforts through nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead.

(4) The Paris Agreement further requires each party to update its nationally determined contribution every 5 years, with each successive nationally determined contribution representing a progression beyond the previous nationally determined contribution, and reflecting the party’s highest possible ambition.

(5) The United States communicated its nationally determined contribution to achieve an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level in 2025 and to make best efforts to reduce its emissions by 28 percent.

(6) A number of existing laws, regulations, and other mandatory measures in the United States are relevant to achieving this target, including the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486), and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140).

(7) On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, which would leave the United States as the only developed country that is not a signatory to the Paris Agreement.

(8) Under the terms of the Paris Agreement, the earliest possible effective withdrawal date by the United States is November 4, 2020. However, the United States is still obligated to maintain certain commitments under the Paris Agreement, such as continuing to report its emissions to the United Nations.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO ADVANCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds are authorized to be appropriated, obligated, or expended to take any action to advance the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement.

SEC. 4. PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES TO MEET ITS NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement that describes—

(1) how the United States will achieve an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level by 2025; and

(2) how the United States will use the Paris Agreement’s transparency provisions to confirm that other parties to the Agreement with major economies are fulfilling their announced contributions to the Agreement.

(b) UPDATES TO PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement that describes—

(1) how the United States will achieve an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level by 2025; and

(2) how the United States will use the Paris Agreement’s transparency provisions to confirm that other parties to the Agreement with major economies are fulfilling their announced contributions to the Agreement.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

SEC. 5. PARIS AGREEMENT DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “Paris Agreement” means the decision by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s 21st Conference of Parties in Paris, France, adopted December 12, 2015.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 116–42. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report.
shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 1 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 116–42.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, after line 19, insert the following:

(3) The Paris Agreement acknowledges that all “Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”.

(4) The Paris Agreement notes the importance of “climate finance” when mitigating and adapting to climate change and recognizes “the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change.”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chairman, my amendment today lays before this House a very simple fact, an undeniable fact: Communities of color across this great Nation and, in fact, across the world are least responsible for climate change. They contribute far less to the carbon footprint of the world; they don’t drive as many cars; in fact, they often drive less. So they contribute less to climate change, and yet they suffer the most harm from its impact.

The most vulnerable among us, from my home in Washington Heights, in Harlem and the northwest Bronx communities and around the world, are all experiencing greater impacts and stand to suffer the most. At home, I see it in the worsening of asthma rates among African American and Latinx children when parents come to my office looking for help for ballooning healthcare costs that they cannot afford.

I see it with seniors who have an array of respiratory diseases, in many cases contributing to long illnesses, if not death.

I see it in Central America, where extreme drought endangers livelihoods and has led to violence and outward migration.

I see it in the Caribbean and even here in the United States, where climate change has increased the magnitude and frequency of hurricanes, affecting millions who do not have the capacity to prepare for worsening storms and have barely recovered from one before the next one hits.

I see it in Africa and in south Asia and in small island developing states, where climate change affects food scarcity and access to clean water, damaging public health and increasing political instability and regional violence.

Mr. Chairman, in the United States and around the world, climate change has an unequal impact on communities of color because it compounds existing injustices of racial and economic disparities. This is fundamentally unjust, Mr. Chairman.

The amendment that I bring before you today is a very simple amendment, one that says that poor communities that are very often communities of color suffer disproportionately from climate change, and yet they do not contribute more to that ill.

My amendment makes it clear that the Paris Agreement seeks to address issues of environmental justice and the disparate impact climate change is having on vulnerable communities and people of color.

If adopted, I believe it will send a strong message, a very strong message that, with this bill, the United States of America’s commitment to remain in the Paris climate agreement also means our agreement to address environmental injustices.

When it comes to mitigating climate change, we cannot forget disenfranchised communities. We cannot forget communities of color. We cannot forget indigenous communities. We cannot forget low-income communities. We cannot forget climate refugees, and we cannot forget the children who will bear this burden when we are all gone.

In every piece of legislation on climate change considered by this House, in every bill on environmental issues we pass, and at every hearing that we hold regarding this important matter, we must ensure that issues of environmental justice are equally addressed and that the disenfranchised communities and communities of color are heard, because, again, Mr. Chairman, they contribute far less to the carbon footprint, they contribute far less to climate change, and yet they suffer tremendously. So this is, fundamentally, an injustice.

Mr. PALLONE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I just want to say, on behalf of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, we support this amendment. It is a good amendment.

Mr. Chair, I also want to thank Mr. ESPAILLAT for working with the committees to make changes to his amendment.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCaul. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. MCCaul. Mr. Chair, I will close once the gentleman yields back.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and the leadership, Chairman PALLONE, for working with me to advance this important issue.

I want to, further, thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this amendment and are similarly dedicated to advancing environmental justice. Congress Members McCahein, Omar, Jayapal, Pressley, Cisneros, and Moore.

Finally, I want to thank many other groups in my district that continue to advocate day in and day out for environmental justice, for the strong and diverse coalition that I am proud to represent.

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

Mr. MCCaul. Mr. Chair, let me first say, like everyone in this Chamber, I support human rights and climate justice, but this amendment really does nothing to reduce our emissions. We should debate bipartisan solutions, such as boosting research, advancing technologies, and promoting innovation.

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. OMAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 116–42.

Ms. Omar. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Acting Chair will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 5, add the following:

(4) The Paris Agreement notes the importance of “climate finance” when mitigating and adapting to climate change and recognizes “the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change.”

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and the leadership, Chairman PALLONE, for working with me to advance this important issue.

I want to, further, thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this amendment and are similarly dedicated to advancing environmental justice. Congress Members McCahein, Omar, Jayapal, Pressley, Cisneros, and Moore.

Finally, I want to thank many other groups in my district that continue to advocate day in and day out for environmental justice, for the strong and diverse coalition that I am proud to represent.

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. OMAR

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Ms. Omar. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Acting Chair will designate the amendment.

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(4) The Paris Agreement notes the importance of “climate finance” when mitigating and adapting to climate change and recognizes “the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change.”

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and the leadership, Chairman PALLONE, for working with me to advance this important issue.

I want to, further, thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this amendment and are similarly dedicated to advancing environmental justice. Congress Members McCahein, Omar, Jayapal, Pressley, Cisneros, and Moore.

Finally, I want to thank many other groups in my district that continue to advocate day in and day out for environmental justice, for the strong and diverse coalition that I am proud to represent.

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. OMAR

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Ms. Omar. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Acting Chair will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 5, add the following:

(4) The Paris Agreement notes the importance of “climate finance” when mitigating and adapting to climate change and recognizes “the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change.”

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and the leadership, Chairman PALLONE, for working with me to advance this important issue.

I want to, further, thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this amendment and are similarly dedicated to advancing environmental justice. Congress Members McCahein, Omar, Jayapal, Pressley, Cisneros, and Moore.

Finally, I want to thank many other groups in my district that continue to advocate day in and day out for environmental justice, for the strong and diverse coalition that I am proud to represent.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.
Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

My amendment includes findings recognizing the importance of the Paris climate agreement’s task force addressing the impact of climate change on displacement and the global refugee crisis.

The United States is responsible for nearly a third of the excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today and, thus, bears more responsibility for the climate crisis than any other country. But the climate crisis is a major contributing factor of yet another devastating crisis we are facing today: the global refugee crisis.

In 2017, more than 60 percent of the internal displacements in the world was as a result of conflict but also natural disasters. Since 2008, an average of 24 million people has been displaced by catastrophic weather disasters each year.

Within three of the most vulnerable regions—sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America—143 million people could be displaced by climate change impacts by 2050.

We do not need to look that far from home to know this. At least 400,000 residents of New Orleans were displaced by Hurricane Katrina for at least a few days, and many were displaced permanently. A disproportionate number of them were Black Americans.

We saw it happen last year in Puerto Rico when 3,000 people died because of Hurricane Maria and our current administration failed to help them recover.

At a time when climate change is making droughts and famines worse, making conflicts fiercer and repression more brutal, our country is resettling historically low numbers of refugees. The United States should be offering protection and support to climate change refugees. Instead, we have capped the number of refugees that we re-settle to only 30,000 people next year.

Citizens of some of the countries that have been hit hardest by climate change, including Yemen, Iran, and Somalia, are currently subject to an arbitrary and unlawful travel ban. We cannot be willing to turn our backs on those suffering because of the effects of global catastrophes.

We have to acknowledge that this tragedy is not going to go away any time soon. As food security, drinking water, and energy supplies become scarcer, more and more families are going to be forced to leave their homes.

Countries that are responsible for perpetuating the climate crisis, like the United States, should rise as leaders in international protection and refuge for displaced communities. It is our duty, as one of the richest countries in the world, to support the Paris Agreement and its task force on the impact of climate change on displacement and the global refugee crisis.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCaul. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. MCCaul. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCaul. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, again, I agree with the premise of this amendment. I met today with U.N. officials on the refugee crisis. I have been to the camps in Jordan and Turkey, so I agree with the premise of this amendment. But, again, it does nothing to reduce our emissions.

We should be debating, I think, bipartisan solutions, such as boosting research, technology, and innovation.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 116–42.

Ms. Houlahan. 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:

Page 7, line 25, strike “and.”
Page 8, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert “;” and “;
Page 8, after line 5, insert the following:
(3) how the United States may use multilateral and bilateral diplomatic tools, in addition to the expert committee established under Article 15 of the Paris Agreement, to encourage and engage other parties to the Agreement to fulfill their announced contributions.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. Houlahan. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 9.

Inaction on climate change will lead to the demise of the human species. Science is not a partisan issue, and the evidence in this case is crystal clear: Climate change is happening, and we, as humans, are causing it.

The amendment that I am offering today would require the President to include in the administration’s strategy how the United States will be able to use all the diplomatic tools available to help our partners around the world meet their own goals.

It is simple. Their success is our success; their failure is our failure. We all share the same planet, the same environment, and the same atmosphere. We cannot fight this alone. We have to be in this fight with every tool available to us, and that includes our diplomacy.

My amendment recognizes the leadership role that our country should and should play in addressing global climate change. This administration has taken a back seat to facing one of our most pressing national security threats, and this amendment puts us back in the global arena, leading this vital charge.

Some naysayers and doubters have expressed concern that developing countries are and will take advantage of the Paris Agreement, placing the burden of addressing climate change on the U.S. This is misleading. The agreement requires all parties to develop their own plans to reduce carbon emissions. Rather than retreat from that position, we should lead.

I serve on the Foreign Affairs Committee. Just today, Ranking Member McCaul said that we have always been leaders on the global stage, and when we are not involved, we leave a power vacuum. This approach is dangerous and diplomatically with respect to humanitarian aid and in the case of climate action as well.

The best way for us to secure the safety and health of our planet is for us to be an aggressive leader in the fight against climate change. Pulling out of the Paris Agreement would send a resounding message to the international community that the United States is not in this fight to save this planet, and that is unacceptable.

Let us be clear: The fight to stop climate change is not just a fight to save our environment. It is a fight for our economy. It is a fight for the health of our children and who we will be for future generations, and for humanity.

I introduced this amendment because that is our mission, to lead as a country, to do the bare minimum as laid out in the Paris Agreement. We must also work aggressively with each country to combat climate change at every turn. Inaction is a death sentence for us all.

We have the opportunity before us to stand up for our fellow Americans and brothers and sisters around the world. I am sure my colleagues on both sides of this aisle and in both Chambers of Congress would agree: This country we call home and this planet we call home are worth fighting for.

I served our country in the Air Force. I believe in this country, and I believe it is worth fighting for.

Yes. This applies to one of, if not the, gravest existential threats to our country, but its threats are not insurmountable.

Just 2 days ago, Pennsylvania became the 24th State to join the U.S. Climate Alliance, committing to work toward cutting greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. We in Pennsylvania are still in
I am proud of our Commonwealth for joining this fight for our country. We in Pennsylvania know America is worth it.

Mr. Chairman, to vote for my amendment is to commit to our necessary leadership on climate change. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I will close after the gentlewoman yields back.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. Houlahan. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman Pallone, Chairman Engel, and Ranking Member McCaul for all of their leadership and guidance on this very, very important issue. I also thank the members of my community who have brought me here to serve in this way. This issue couldn’t be more fundamental to our existence in my community, our Commonwealth, our country, and our planet.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, let me first commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, for quoting me. I do think we should lead as a nation in the world. I support the United States leading the world on the international challenges we face. But, again, this amendment has nothing to do with reducing our emissions.

We should be a leader on the bipartisan approach to solutions to this crisis, like boosting research, innovation, and technologies.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. Houlahan).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 116-42. Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire. 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:

Page 8, after line 20, insert the following new section (and redesignate the subsequent section accordingly):

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall produce a report that examines the effect of the Paris Agreement on clean energy job development in rural communities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. Kuster) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ms. Castor for her tireless leadership on this landmark legislation.

Nearly 2 years ago, the United States ceded global leadership when President Trump announced plans to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, a sweeping accord amongst the overwhelming majority of nation-states to curb carbon pollution and mitigate the damaging effects of climate change.

The Climate Action Now Act reverses this misguided decision by ensuring that America honors its commitments to the Paris Agreement and prevents any taxpayer dollars from being used to take any action to advance the United States’ withdrawal from the agreement.

I am proud to support this legislation and to offer an amendment that would require the President to produce a report assessing the results of rejoining the Paris Agreement will bolster clean energy job creation in rural communities.

Contrary to the claims that have been made here today by my colleagues across the aisle, we have seen the positive impact across my district and across New Hampshire that the deployment of clean energy can have on our communities, both for our economy and our environment.

Our rural communities are home to some of the hardest working Americans who are committed to securing good-paying jobs to support themselves and their families. Clean energy jobs are good-paying jobs.

In New Hampshire, a clean energy job pays 50 percent more than the State’s median wage.

Rejoining the Paris climate agreement will spur a new clean energy economy that weans America off fossil fuels from countries that do not share our values, protects our environment by reducing carbon pollution, and creates good-paying jobs.

My amendment is straightforward. If we are going to rejoin the Paris Agreement, we must ensure that rural communities benefit from the subsequent job creation and manufacturing. My amendment would create a framework for how rural America can thrive and combat climate change.

We know that rural communities face unique economic challenges, and it is imperative that they are not left behind as we move toward the 21st century clean energy economy.

We also know that rural communities can lead the clean energy revolution, and I am very proud to represent five communities that have made a commitment to use 100 percent renewable energy by 2030: Concord, Keene, Plainfield, Hanover, and Cornish.

I am proud to offer this amendment with my colleague, Congressman Chris Pappas, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote “yes” on the amendment and the underlying bill.

Mr. Pallone. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say, on behalf of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, that we support this amendment. It is an excellent amendment.

I want to thank Ms. Kuster for working with the committees to make some changes to her amendment.

Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Shimkus. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. Shimkus. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I will close after the gentlewoman yields back.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Shimkus. Mr. Chairman, I didn’t get a chance to come down during the debate on the underlying bill, and the committee, of course, raised this issue.

The hope is that the President is going to sign a bill to go back into an agreement that he already decided to get out of. So, when the statement is made— it only reverses the President’s action if the President signs the bill. The President is not going to sign this bill.

So why are we here? Why are we spending a whole week? I understand we need to get this climate debate off and eventually move forward, and I hope we will do that in a bipartisan manner.

As to the amendment that we are debating here, not bad, I think, trying to understand the green jobs that will occur. But I think those of us from fossil fuel areas, coal mining areas, marginal oil, well, we would probably like to see an evaluation of job losses that could occur as part of this.

They are going to tout the job creation. Let’s look at the areas—and they touted rural America. Let’s look at the areas where coal mines will close, coal-fired power plants will close, and the economic impact that will be impacted there.

We are pretty excited about working with the Energy and Commerce Committee on, as is, I think, the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee on conservation, innovation, and adaptation. Our focus is going to be: Let’s affect the carbon dioxide emissions without raising energy costs and slowing the economic activity.
I think we have one of the best economies that I have ever served in, and we do have an increase in carbon dioxide this last year because the economic activity is so great.

So if you believe that, which is true, the reverse would be, if you delay and raise energy costs, you could really hurt economic growth.

Mr. Chair, I ask for a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 116–42.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, 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 section 4, add the following subsection:

(d) STATE AND LOCAL ACTIONS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit States and cities from taking more ambitious actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than the actions described in the plan developed under this section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES). Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

My grandsons’ generation will remember President Trump’s decision to leave the Paris Agreement as the day that he condemned them to a world of manmade devastation.

Today, we have a chance to change that. Which side do we want to be on, the side of future generations or the side of those who would profit at their expense?

H.R. 9 mandates that the United States Government honor the commitments we made in the Paris Agreement.

We also need to protect the rights of cities and States to go above and beyond to meet the unique strains climate change puts on their regions.

For example, California has committed to source 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2045. This is necessary, considering the toll climate change has taken on California, including historic droughts, deadly fires, and flooding.

Despite this, President Trump has tried to make it harder for California to regulate its own greenhouse emissions. I have offered an amendment to H.R. 9 that would stop President Trump from using the plan mandated in this Act to limit cities and States like California from taking more ambitious action to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chair, I will close after my colleague yields back her time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ).

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment.

I would like to point out that oftentimes the opposition party talks about States’ rights, but when it comes to fighting for climate, cleaning up our air and our water, making sure that people can combat a climate crisis, then: Do you want us to get involved.

We are going to stop these States from doing something that they have been doing.

California is a leader in combating climate change—a leader. We have reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and we are on target to implement a lot of our top goals: 100 percent renewable energy and carbon neutrality by 2045, zero-emission vehicles, and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

I also, when I was in the State legislature, passed a law that said that more of the money from greenhouse gas emission fees must go to the most disadvantaged and the most impacted communities of climate change. That means that not only are we reducing our carbon footprint, but we are also giving resources directly back to these communities.

So let’s not get in the way. Let’s not stop California’s progress, because it is a leader for not only the country, but the world.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chair, I stand today as a cosponsor of this important amendment offered by my colleague and fellow Californian, Representative TORRES.

Our State and many others across the country are showing the world how to take meaningful steps to meet our Paris climate agreement commitments.

While the current administration continues to do everything in its power to prioritize industry conflicts of interest over the sustainability and future of our planet, I am proud of the forward-thinking work being done in our city, Chula Vista, in Orange County, and States like the one I call home, California. These important efforts must not be prohibited.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, if we don’t take an aggressive step to deal with this problem, our grandchildren and their grandchildren will pay the price.

A United States Government report found that our economy will lose over $1 trillion dollars by the end of this century due to climate change. Clean energy is an investment, not only for our communities, but for future generations.

California has over 500,000 jobs created within the clean energy sector. That is about 10 times the number of coal jobs nationwide. This amendment ensures that California’s progress and commitment will not be sabotaged.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) for offering this critical legislation.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I urge opposition to this amendment.

Listen, in the transmission world, other than Texas, no State is alone. California is in the Western interconnect. So we have great support for States’ rights, but decisions made by California will affect Nevada and will affect Arizona.

For example, we have seen how decisions in some areas actually benefit the fossil energy in other areas, such as support of fossil and nuclear power in Arizona for California’s electricity requirements.

The basic underlying amendment really does nothing to address things that we would like to support—conservation, innovation, adaption—trying to, in a bipartisan approach, address the real issue, which is how do we reduce carbon dioxide emissions in a way that protects the economy, grows our economy. We also know our citizens are better served when they have good paying jobs and they are working versus a risk of not doing that if you move down an unchecked path.

Mr. Chair, I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. SHALALA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 116–42.

Ms. SHALALA. 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:

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following:

(b) Article V of the Paris Agreement states that “Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events”, such as sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and flooding.
The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA). Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL). Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Addressing sea level rise is a serious issue as well as saltwater intrusion and flooding.

The Acting CHAIR. Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. DESAULNIER.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, I have completed my statement. This is absolutely critical to my south Florida community.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Addressing sea level rise is a serious issue as well as saltwater intrusion and flooding.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA). Mr. Chairman, I have completed my statement. This is absolutely critical to my south Florida community.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Addressing sea level rise is a serious issue as well as saltwater intrusion and flooding.

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Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Addressing sea level rise is a serious issue as well as saltwater intrusion and flooding.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA). Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL). Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Addressing sea level rise is a serious issue as well as saltwater intrusion and flooding.

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The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA). Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL). Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Addressing sea level rise is a serious issue as well as saltwater intrusion and flooding.

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Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, I have completed my statement. This is absolutely critical to my south Florida community.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, let me first say, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Addressing sea level rise is a serious issue as well as saltwater intrusion and flooding.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA). Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

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The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA). Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.
are energy efficient; and 318,000 jobs are in California. The World Bank has an analysis that says the Paris accord will contribute $23 trillion to the world economy.

So on the basis of that and the fact that there are three times more in the renewable and alternative fuel right now in the world than there are in the fossil fuel industry, I think that my colleagues should support this amendment so that we get the facts from the National Academy of Sciences, and the administration can see that what we are supporting not only benefits the planet and public health, but it benefits the economy and the future of American competitiveness.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chair, let me say first to the gentleman from California, that I appreciate the Californians and the California tech companies expanding to my home city of Austin, Texas, but I find this amendment contrary to the premise of this bill, which prohibits withdrawing from the U.S. Paris Agreement. In fact, it withdraws funding.

So for that reason, I am in opposition to it, and, again, I think, as the gentleman stated, we should be advancing—if this bill doesn’t make it through the Senate, doesn’t get signed into law—advancing the clean energy technologies I think both of our States want to advance.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DeSaulnier).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

"The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 116–42.

Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Ms. Jackson Lee, I speak in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 5, add the following:

(9) The Paris Agreement is an example of multilateral international cooperation needed to overcome challenges facing the international community, such as reducing emissions, promoting economic growth, and deploying clean energy technologies.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Pallone) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I am offering this amendment on behalf of myself, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congressman Moulton of Massachusetts, and Congresswoman Hayes of Connecticut, and I express my appreciation to them for their assistance and support.

This amendment improves the bill by adding a finding which emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism in responding to the global challenges facing the international community.

Mr. Chair, the Paris climate accord was an example of an international leader commitment and resolve that defeated fascism, created NATO, the European Union, the Marshall Plan, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and most importantly, preserved peace and freedom for the last 75 years.

Collective international action is also needed to combat growing international challenges such as terrorism, human trafficking, and black-market sales of illegal weapons, drugs, and tobacco.

No one country can solve these problems on its own, and this amendment emphasizes the importance of collective international action.

The landmark Paris climate accord was established to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable, low-carbon future. This also brings all Nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so.

In these efforts, we promote the importance of continued international cooperation that has sustained the global community through epidemics, famines, and natural disasters.

Mr. Chairman, a collection of rational actors acting in a selfless manner to achieve a result, such as this, requires leadership and systematic reasoning. Without this type of collective action and selfless resolve, we leave ourselves vulnerable to a tragedy of the commons.

When countries act solely in their own best interests without regard to combating international threats, everyone suffers. That is why a great person and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton so eloquently said, "We are stronger together."

The Jackson Lee-Moulton-Hayes amendment reflects this important insight by Mrs. Clinton, and I urge support of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to this amendment, but I am not opposed to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I will close once the gentleman from New Jersey yields back.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Ms. Clarke), who is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. Clarke of New York. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Paris Agreement will still stand with or without the U.S. not meeting its commitment, and it doesn’t hurt the Paris Agreement, it just hurts the U.S. diplomatically and economically. So it is so critical that we use this opportunity to express to the world and to express to our own Nation that climate change is a priority for this Congress.

Beyond the diplomatic consequences around the world, a decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement hurts Americans right here at home. The U.S. is in the midst of a major transition to clean energy. As consumers demand access to cleaner energy and cleaner air, prices for renewables are falling across the board. With the market forces increasing favoring renewables, dirty energy is no longer a smart investment.

So I want to thank my colleague, Kathy Castor, and I want to thank the members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for continuing to stand strong and stand firm in our commitment to the American people, because ceding the leadership role on the global stage means losing economic opportunities in the global clean energy economy, hurting American workers and businesses.

As we talk about the international framework, we see China, India, and other countries would lead if America does not.

This decision is just another bad Trump deal for the United States of America. It won't bring the coal industry back, and it cedes ground to creating renewable energy jobs that put Americans to work.

This is the new industrial revolution of the 21st century. Let us not cede our leadership to others around the globe but let us lead them. Let us provide the technology that the world will utilize to make sure that we save and preserve this planet, not only for our generation, but generations to come.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, as I stated, I am opposed to this amendment. I think the international community should reduce emissions. I think the issue is that the international community is not living up to the expectations of this agreement, particularly China. While we have reduced emissions by 14 percent, they have doubled their emissions, and they have until 2030 to reduce any emissions. That is why fundamentally I think this is a flawed agreement. I am not opposed to an international consensus to reduce emissions. I don’t think this is the right way to do it.
Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment on behalf of myself, Congressman MOULTON of Massachusetts and Congresswoman HAYES of Connecticut, and express my appreciation to them for their assistance and support.

The Jackson Lee/Moulton/Hayes Amendment improves the bill by adding a finding which emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism in responding to the global challenges facing the international community.

The Paris Climate Accord was an example of the international leadership, commitment, and resolve that defeated fascism, created NATO, the European Union, the Marshall Plan, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and most importantly, preserved peace and freedom for the last 75 years.

Collective international action is also needed to combat growing international challenges such as terrorism, human trafficking, and black-market sales of illegal weapons, drugs, and tobacco.

No one country can solve these problems on its own, and this amendment emphasizes the importance of collective international action.

The landmark Paris Climate Accord was established to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.

This also brings all nations into a common cause. Our unsuccessful efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so.

And in these efforts, we promote the importance of continued international cooperation that has sustained the global community through epidemics, famines, and natural disasters.

A collective of rational actors acting in a selfless manner to achieve a rational result such as this requires leadership and systemic reasoning.

Without this type of collective action and selfless resolve, we leave ourselves vulnerable to a Tragedy of Commons.

When countries act solely in their best interests without regard tocombatting international threats, everyone suffers.

That is why a great person and former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, so eloquently said: “We are stronger together.”

The Jackson Lee/Moulton/Hayes Amendment reflects this important insight.

I urge support of the Jackson Lee/Moulton/Hayes Amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 116–42.

Mr. GOSAR. 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:

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following:

(9) The Paris Agreement is a treaty and should be treated as a treaty. Therefore, before any action can be taken to execute the goals in the Paris Agreement, the Senate should approve a resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Paris Agreement.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my amendment ensuring the constitutionality of the Paris Agreement. The previous administration refused to abide by the Constitution and called this an agreement, not a treaty, despite the agreement having an impact on every American.

Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution states that the President shall “have power by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to make treaties provided two thirds of the Senators present concur.”

My amendment simply states that the Paris Agreement is a treaty, and before anything can be implemented to abide by the agreement, it should be submitted to the Senate for approval.

My good friend from Virginia, Representative MORGAN GRIFFITTI, said it best yesterday in our Special Order when he eloquently stated: “If we are going to bind our hands and seal our fate to be the number two or number three or number five economy in the world instead of being the number one economy in the world, if that is what we are going to do, then there ought to be votes taken down the hall. Men and women in the United States Senate should put their name on the line and say yes or no. And the American people then will know who has voted yes and who has voted no. They won’t be hiding behind any games or circumstances or procedural maneuvers. Then the American people can use the power that was given to them by our Constitution and an inalienable right granted by God to use the ballot box to make a decision as to whether or not they wanted to be bound, whether or not they wanted to have their economy reduced, and have their children and grandchildren to be lesser than what we have today in our economic wealth.”

Many radical environmental groups are saying the Paris Agreement does not need to go to the Senate, that the agreement reiterates obligations already contained in article 4 of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or the UNFCCC. This is completely a falsehood.

The Congressional Research Service has already proven them wrong.

Let me quote the CRS: “The George H.W. Bush administration stated that Article 4.2 of the UNFCCC, which commits the parties to, inter alia, adopt national policies and, accordingly, mitigate climate change by limiting GHG emissions did not require any new implementing legislation nor added regulatory programs.” Perhaps, most importantly, it stated that an amendment or future agreement under the UNFCCC to adopt targets and timeframes for emissions reductions would be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent.

Furthermore, in a subsequent report, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations wrote:

“A decision by the conference of parties to adopt targets and timeframes for emissions reductions would have to be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent before the United States could deposit its instruments of ratification for such an agreement. The committee notes further that a decision by the executive branch to reinterpret the convention to apply legally binding targets and timeframes for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to the United States would alter the ‘shared understanding’ of the convention between the Senate and the executive branch and would therefore require the Senate’s advice and consent.”

The previous administration purposely ignored the will of Congress by refusing to send the Paris Agreement to the Senate. I urge all Members from both sides of the aisle to stand together against executive overreach.

Here we have a clear case of the executive branch telling Congress it doesn’t matter.

If Congress refuses to exercise its constitutional authority and not demand the Paris Agreement be sent to the Senate, then this body is telling future Presidents that there are no checks and balances.

Madam Chair, I urge the adoption of my amendment that preserves the constitutional checks and balance, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. NORTON). The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul).

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I strongly support this amendment. It has been the thrust of our argument.

I support the U.S. Constitution Article I authority. This process circumvented that. I do believe it required Senate ratification. But not only that, the President didn’t even consult with the Congress. There was not one hearing on this during the Obama administration and therefore circumventing the American people. For that reason, I strongly support this amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I will finish that up.

The State Department has a Circular 175, and there are ten opportunities
that tell us whether they are an agreement or whether they are a treaty.

So let me highlight just four or five of these.

Number one, the extent to which the agreement involves commitments or risks that are not free from international obligations.

This obviously impacts everybody across this country, therefore, ratification by the Senate.

Whether the agreement is intended to affect State laws.

This will bind all State laws, because they have to fulfill the ratification based on that activity. So, therefore, it, once again, has to be a treaty.

Whether the agreement can be given effect without the enactment of subsequent legislation by the Congress.

This agreement obligates U.S. taxpayer funds to the Green Climate Fund, which is a slush fund, but it still obligates those applications and that money to that fund. Therefore, it must be fully funded as is the case.

Madam Chair, I ask Members to adopt my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Many of the arguments that have heard this argument over and over again. The Republicans said the same thing in the markup before the Energy and Commerce Committee, but these Republican arguments are not going to change the facts.

The fact is the Paris Agreement itself is not a treaty. It is an agreement under an existing treaty, and that is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, that is UNFCCC, pronounced UNRF triple C, and that was signed by President George H.W. Bush and approved by both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate in 1992.

There is no requirement for the Senate to approve subsidiary agreements around already approved treaties.

In fact, the vast majority of international agreements to which the United States is a party are not treaties. According to the Congressional Research Service, more than 90 percent of international legal agreements which the United States supports are agreements that do not require Senate ratification.

Now, President Obama did not have to submit the Paris Agreement to the Senate for ratification for two reasons: first, because the emissions targets are not legally binding; and, second, because the legally binding commitments, which are almost entirely procedural, generally either elaborate or repeat obligations under the UNFCCC.

It is no true that an agreement with any legally binding provisions must be ratified by the Senate. There are many ways in which the United States can enter into international agreements with legally binding commitments.

As I previously mentioned, the vast majority of international agreements the United States enters into are not approved by the Senate. Using examples of that, we have the U.S.-Canada Air Quality Agreement, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution.

Arguments that the GOP are using, that the Paris Agreement needs to be ratified are disingenuous. They are, frankly, trying to avoid climate action at all costs. I really find it unfortunate that rather than arguing on the merits, that they use these arguments about ratification that are simply disingenuous.

For those reasons, I oppose this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 116–42.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows: Strike section 3 (and redesignate the subsequent sections accordingly).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that strikes section 3 of the bill. Section 3 prohibits the use of funds to advance the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement. My amendment ensures any decision made on the Paris Agreement will be based on the merits, not politics.

I have said this before, and I will say it again: Either the Paris Agreement is a treaty, or it is not. If it is not a treaty, then the current administration may independently terminate the agreement without congressional approval, as the previous administration entered into the agreement without congressional approval.

Makes sense, right?

What one administration does by executive action can be undone by the next administration by executive action.

If the Paris Agreement is not an agreement entered into by the United States by executive action and constitutes a treaty, then it should be presented to the Senate and put on the floor for a two-thirds vote per Article II, Section 2 of our Constitution.

For the last several years, Democratic Members have crowed at the top of their lungs about none of the funds provisions and forced the U.S. Senate to agree to only take up appropriation bills if they do not include political riders. Riders have not been included in the final appropriations bills signed into law as a result.

Well, folks, section 3 is a political, none-of-the-funds rider, whose sole ability is to try and prevent the administration from doing something they currently have the authority to do. The hypocrisy here is outrageous, and this amendment should pass based on that precedent utilized over the last several years alone.

We have heard folks on the other side of the aisle claim we need to stay in the Paris Agreement in order to protect future generations. Americans for Tax Reform estimates the Paris Agreement will cost the U.S. an estimated 6.5 million jobs and reduce our GDP by over $2.5 trillion.

NERA Consulting estimates those numbers are even higher, and that the Paris Agreement will cost the U.S. an estimated 31.6 million jobs by 2040 and reduce our GDP by over $3 trillion.

How does killing 6.5 to 31.6 million jobs and costing our economy more than $3 trillion protect future generations? I don't know.

The European Climate Action Network reported that no single country in Europe is performing sufficiently to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

A recent United Nations Emissions Gap report found that all participating countries will have to at least triple their efforts in order to meet the Paris Agreement’s basic goals.

China and India, the world’s two biggest polluters, have said they will not even consider reducing carbon emissions until 2030 at the earliest, while we are pledging to reduce our emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025.

How does tying ourselves to a non-binding agreement that puts us at a competitive disadvantage and that countries throughout the world are failing to implement protect the American people?

This is not a partisan issue, Madam Chairwoman. This is about doing what is right for America and about protecting freedom and opportunity for our children and grandchildren.

If the administration didn’t already have the authority to withdraw the United States from the fundamentally flawed Paris Agreement, then there should be no reason to include the section 3 political rider being debated here today.

But since the United States Senate has failed to take up the Paris Agreement and weigh in one way or the other whether the Paris Agreement is a
treaty or not, this body should not at-
tempt to tie the administration’s hands with a political none-of-the-
funds rider.

Either you are for the Constitution or you are not. Either you believe exec-
utive action can be taken to enter and leave the Paris Agreement or you don’t.

I urge adoption of my amendment, which removes the politics from the bill and allows any decision made on the Paris Agreement to be based on merit, not politics.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5
minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I re-
serve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Once again, Madam Chair, this is an important ap-

dication. Once again, you have to real-
ize that we are talking about the Con-
stitution.

The other side talks out of both sides of their mouth. They want it one way when they are in the minority, they want it any way when they are in the majority, and they can’t have that.

This is about the rule of law and about good policy. Good process builds good policy builds good politics, and that is just not what is here today.

So when we start looking at the ap-
lications here, let’s make sure the American taxpayer, the American fam-

ily, is treated fairly, not put at a dis-
advantage by the rest of the world.

Too often we have taken the short end of the stick. It is fine for us to stand up.

And, by the way, if I am not mis-

taken, in 2015, 2016, and 2017 we led the world in carbon emissions reductions. Yes, it is that very application of entrepreneurialism and technology that has driven that boat. Let’s con-
tinue doing it that way. Let’s get back to good process.

Madam Chair, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to Mr. Gosar’s amendment, which would gut the heart of the bill, the section that prevents the President from withdrawing from the Paris Agreement.

Now, the Paris Agreement sets a strong foundation for action that will accelerate the shift to a clean energy economy and put us on the path to a safer, healthier planet for generations to come. It is the most ambitious cli-

mate change agreement in history and builds upon the unprecedented partici-
pation of roughly 200 parties to the convention, including India and China, something that my Republican col-
leagues have wanted for many years.

It provides a framework for reducing U.S. carbon pollution, while also grow-
ing our economy. More energy-efficient appliances, buildings, and vehicles will result in lower energy costs for con-
sumers, all while lowering emissions of harmful air pollutants and keeping our manufacturing industries competitive in this global transition towards low carbon practices.

So, first and foremost, what H.R. 9 is doing is stopping President Trump’s reckless withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the very agreement our country was instrumental in negoti-
ating. But this move has real diplo-
matic consequences, further dimin-
ishing America’s credibility around the world.

Let me be clear, the Paris Agreement will still stand with or without the United States; but not meeting our commitments doesn’t hurt the Paris Agreement, it just hurts the United States diplomatically and economi-
cally. Other countries, not to mention U.S. cities and States, are still moving forward on climate action, making the Trump administration only appear more isolated and irrelevant as the world moves past us.

But beyond the diplomatic con-
sequences around the world a decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement hurts Americans at home.

The U.S. is in the midst of a major transition to clean energy. As con-
sumers demand access to cleaner en-
ergy and cleaner air, prices for renew-
ables are falling across the board. With market forces increasingly favoring re-
newables, dirty energy is no longer a smart investment.

Ceding the leadership role on the global stage means losing economic op-
portunities in a global clean energy economy, hurting American workers and businesses. China, India and other countries will lead if America does not.

Leaving the Paris Agreement is just another bad Trump deal for the United States. H.R. 9 is trying to prevent this bad Trump deal from becoming our re-
ality; our ocean. Our country would still have a but guarantee that the United States feels the full weight of the economic and diplomatic consequences of aban-
donning our friends and allies.

This amendment ensures we lose the clean energy development race to China or India.

This amendment locks the United States and the world into a future of catastrophic warming that puts all of our lives and livelihoods at risk.

I said this earlier when we spoke on the bill: We cannot look backwards. We can’t look back into the 19th century. We have to look forward, with new in-
novation, with an economy that cre-
ates more jobs.

Don’t let us fall behind the rest of the world and not lead on such an im-
portant issue. It is a huge mistake.

That is why we are saying in H.R. 9, in this bill, that the President should not be allowed to withdraw and should put together a plan that leads us forward toward a clean economy and meeting the Paris goals.

So, I oppose the Gosar amendment. I urge my colleagues to join me in vot-

ing against it, and I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-
tleman from Arizona (Mr. Gosar).

The question was taken; and the Act-
ing CHAIR announced that the noes ap-
peared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I de-
mand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-
cedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. CASE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House Report 116-42.

Mr. CASE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as fol-
lores:

Page 6, after line 5, insert the following new paragraph:

(5) The Paris Agreement recognizes that the ocean ecosystems covering more than 70 percent of the Earth’s surface play an integral role in climate balance. Seventy percent of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement are ocean-inclu-
sion, and those contributions are focused on the inclusion of ocean action in nationally determined contributions through the Ocean Initiative.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. Case) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii.

Mr. CASE. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 9, which would recognize the importance of the oceans to our global climate system and the international efforts under way to in-
clude our oceans in nationally determined contributions, or NDCs, under the Paris Agreement.

When we talk about the impacts of

manmade climate change, we focus on the worlds of our lands and air, but we tend to forget the largest world of all, our oceans. Yet, some of the foremost negative consequences of climate change, as well as the positive vital processes that have kept our climate on an even keel until recently and can continue to do so, lie in the ocean.

We cannot forget the oceans. No cli-

mate change solutions can work if our oceans are not in the room.

The ocean covers more than 70 per-
cent of the Earth and directly affects weather around the globe. The temper-
atures and currents of the ocean de-
termine storm patterns and strength.

We have seen increases in measures of intensity, frequency, and duration, as well as the number of the strong-

est category 4 and 5—storms since the 1960s.

The ocean also absorbs many of the most immediate consequences of car-
bon pollution, buffering us from some
of its most damaging impacts. The ocean has absorbed 93 percent of the total excess heat energy taken up by greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Additionally, the ocean is the largest sink for anthropogenic carbon dioxide, or CO₂, absorbing roughly one-third of CO₂ emissions.

The increase in temperature and carbon in the atmosphere and oceans are directly impacting communities throughout the world. According to the 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment, or NCA, released by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, made up of 13 Federal agencies: “Human-caused carbon emissions influence ocean ecosystems through three main processes: ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation.”

Additionally, the NCA states: “The social, economic, and environmental systems along the coasts are being affected by climate change. Threats from sea level rise are exacerbated by dynamic processes such as high tide and storm surge flooding, erosion, waves and their effects, saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers and elevated groundwater tables, local rainfall, river runoff, increasing water and surface air temperatures, and ocean acidification.”

In just one compelling instance of many from around the world, my State of Hawaii’s oceans and coastlines are on the front lines of dealing with the impacts of climate change in our oceans and coasts. For example, the Honolulu tide gauge, a constant for over a century now, has measured a sea level rise of nearly half a foot since 1905.

Over 70 percent of our beaches in Hawaii are in a state of chronic erosion, likely caused by a combination of shoreline hardening and ongoing sea level rise. The frequency of high tide flooding in Honolulu since the 1960s increased from 6 days per year to 11 per year.

We have also seen in Hawaii sea level rise impact traditional and customary practices, including fishpond maintenance, cultivation of salt, and gathering from the nearshore fisheries.

About 550 cultural sites, 38 miles of major roads, and more than $19 billion in assets will be vulnerable to chronic flooding resulting from a 3.2-foot increase in sea level. Such widespread flooding will change the character of the islands by affecting cultural heritage and daily commerce and lifestyle, and this is chronic throughout the entire Pacific.

We also, in Hawaii, face just one example of the impacts of ocean warming, acidification, and their effects. We have seen globally averaged sea surface temperature increase by 1.8 percent Farenheit over the past 100 years.

We have also seen over nearly 30 years of oceanic pH measurements, based on data collected from Station ALOHA, Hawaii, show a roughly 8.7 percent increase in ocean acidity over this time.

We have seen increased ocean acidification reduce the ability of marine organisms to build shells and other hard structures, adversely impacting coral reefs and threatening marine ecosystems.

We have seen extended periods of coral bleaching, which did not even occur first until 2014 but now are becoming much longer.

This is, again, true throughout the entire Pacific Ocean. And we are not alone, because the ocean is interconnected throughout our world, and we are a clear example of what the world is facing.

These impacts are happening all over the world and our country.

Madam Chair, 39 countries—conspicuously, not including the U.S.—have embraced the challenges and promise of our oceans in facing climate change by signing the Because the Ocean initiative, which has encouraged progress on the ocean in climate change policy debate, with a special focus on the inclusion of ocean action into nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement. The efforts of these countries and their partners will be invaluable as we face the crisis of climate change.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Hawaii has expired.

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, let me just say first, we all recognize the oceans’ ecosystems, 70 percent of the Earth’s surface. I am a member of the Ocean Caucus.

This really has nothing to do with reducing our emissions. It is simply a finding on high tide flooding, on bipartisanship solutions and boosting research, advancing technologies, and promoting innovation.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 116-42.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will signify the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 8, after line 20, insert the following new subsection:

(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The President shall—

(1) in making the plan under subsection (a), and updates under subsection (b), available to the public, and before submitting such plan and updates to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) publish the plan or update, as applicable, in the Federal Register; and

(B) provide a period of at least 90 days for public comment; and

(2) after each such period for public comment, continue to make the proposed plan or update, as well as the comments received, available to the public on regulations.gov (or any successor website).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, any time Congress considers legislation to comply with the Paris climate agreement, let’s give the American people 90 days of public comment. That is a standard everywhere for legislation as big as this.

Who would dare deny our job creators, working families, farmers, coal miners, and manufacturers the opportunity to be heard?

If you support the underlying bill, then I would think you would need to hear how this agreement will impact people’s jobs and their bottom lines. No one will escape higher prices for energy, food, housing, transportation, or just about anything else. If you come from an industrial State, like my home State of Illinois, you can be especially hard hit.

According to recent studies, the Paris Agreement will devastate employment in steel, iron, cement, and oil refining by killing over 1 million jobs. Manufacturing jobs are good jobs, and they are jobs that are multipliers, with every new steel job leading to seven additional jobs in the region in which they are created.

We just worked our tail off with the President, President Trump’s administration, to help bring nearly 2,000 jobs back to the steel jobs that were in Granite City that were lost. The underlying bill would throw these jobs right back out the window.

What about our farmers? They have faced tougher times and more uncertainty than at any other time, and this would cripple them.

Coal miners have a proud heritage in my district. They are barely hanging on, and this would be the final nail in the coffin.

All of this risk, and for what? A global climate agreement that holds America to a higher standard than China, India, and other emerging nations with bigger emissions and pollution problems.

Look, I have 11 grandchildren. I want to leave a healthier world for them. I want future generations to look back and say that we cared about the future of our planet. But we also have to worry about the people’s security in the present. We need to work together to find solutions that protect jobs and protect the planet.
So before the people’s House considers the underlying bill, let’s hear from the people themselves. Support my amendment and give our constituents the opportunity to be heard on just how bad the Paris Agreement could be for them.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition. The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Let me explain. I am only claiming the time in opposition. I actually support the gentleman’s amendment.

In the interest of increasing transparency and public participation in the development of the President’s climate plan, I believe that Mr. Bost’s amendment actually is a good one.

Speaking on behalf of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, we support its adoption and would accept the amendment.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for supporting the amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Bost).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will now designate the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 8. STUDY AND REPORT. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of the plan under subsection (a) on the United States territories, including the potential positive and negative impacts on the economy, taking into consideration their unique energy needs and systems and the climate change vulnerabilities faced by communities in these jurisdictions.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZALEZ-COLON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico.

Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico. Madam Chair, I rise today to speak on behalf of my bipartisan amendment. Amendment No. 15. This bill will provide for a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level by 2025.

While I share some of my colleagues’ concerns about the effectiveness of these targets and the underlying bill, I strongly believe that we believe that Congress and the Federal Government pay particular attention to the needs of 3.5 million American citizens living in all five U.S. territories whenever it is considering and crafting policies that tackle climate risk.

My amendment will help us achieve just that. Specifically, it directs the General Accounting Office to study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of the President’s plan on the U.S. territories, including the potential positive and negative implications on our economies.

In conducting this analysis, the General Accounting Office will have to consider our unique energy needs and systems and the climate risk vulnerabilities faced by communities across our islands.

U.S. territories are at the forefront of climate risks. Given our geographic location, we are uniquely vulnerable to extreme weather events. Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017, for example, completely devastated Puerto Rico.
and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Typhoon Yutu did the same last year in the Northern Mariana Islands.

We are also vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal erosion. In fact, it is estimated that approximately 60 percent of Puerto Rico’s beaches show some sign of erosion, negatively impacting critical infrastructure, communities, properties, and the economies and livelihoods of coastal communities across our island.

Unlike our fellow Americans in the 48 contiguous States, we are not interconnected with a national or larger power grid. Instead, we have isolated systems with limited access to cost-effective fuel sources, heavily rely on foreign petroleum imports, and face among the highest electricity rates in the Nation.

My amendment will allow the study of whether the President’s plan has any impact on addressing and tackling these issues, in terms of providing us important information to ensure we are enacting the most effective policies to help territories become more resilient.

It also allows us to study whether the President’s plan is a net positive for territories and ensures it does not further raise energy costs, which will be detrimental to economic growth and development.

We need to have a comprehensive understanding of how any climate policy impacts the U.S. territories and incorporates our unique energy needs and realities.

Madam Chair, this bipartisan amendment—and I thank Congresswoman Plaskett and Congresswoman RADEWAGEN, as well as Congressman SAN NICOLAS of Guam, for being original cosponsors of this amendment—offers a sensible and simple way to achieve this. That is the reason why I thank all of them for sponsoring this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this amendment for the U.S. territories.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Chair, I join my colleagues today to speak out on the President’s intent to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement by supporting H.R. 9 and specifically in support of Congresswoman GONZALEZ-COLON’s amendment that is before the floor.

The President’s intent to withdraw from the climate agreement is perilous, misguided, and ignores the increasingly stark reality of the impacts of climate change in our Nation as well as in the world.

Rising sea levels are already having devastating impacts on hundreds of vulnerable communities across the country and around the world.

Last week, I visited Charleston, South Carolina, and listened to the mayor of Charleston discuss how they were urgently working to heighten the seawall in Charleston directly as a consequence of drastically increasing carbon emissions, and likely related to warming sea water and the rise in sea level and volatility that has caused so much damage.

The catastrophic effects of global warming were manifested in 2017 and 2018 natural disasters, where the Nation saw unprecedented natural disasters, from the deadliest wildfires in California to the worst hurricanes that hit the East Coast and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The vulnerability of the island territories is particularly important, as they are isolated and have specific energy issues and concerns that other places do not face due to their isolation and being surrounded by and part of the ocean environment.

Madam Chair, I thank Congresswoman GONZALEZ-COLON for her work on this amendment, which requires a report on the impact of climate change in the U.S. territories that pays particular attention and consideration to their unique energy needs and systems and the climate change vulnerabilities faced by communities in this jurisdiction.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and passage of H.R. 9.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N. Madam Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chair, I also thank Congresswoman GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N and, actually, Congresswoman PLASKETT. I was able to visit the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico during the last hurricane, and it was devastating. I appreciate the hospitality shown in difficult times.

Madam Chair, while this is a “let’s do an evaluation of good and bad,” versus one of the amendments talked about earlier, I am pleased to support it.

The only caveat we would say is that we would rather have these reports done prior to making major decisions versus after the decision and then seeing how it is going to impact. But I am pleased to support it, and I thank the gentlewoman for bringing it forward.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I would inquire if the gentlewoman has any additional speakers.

Miss GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Puerto Rico has three-quarters of a minute remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, because I have the right to close, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, let me say, this is a good amendment, and I am looking on behalf of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, we support its adoption.

Madam Chair, I thank Miss GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N for working with the committees to make changes to her amendment. It has already been mentioned by my colleague, Mr. SHIMKUS, that she was our gracious host when we went to Puerto Rico and also to the Virgin Islands in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, where we saw the devastation of the hurricane.

Of course, part of the reason why we as Democrats support the Paris Agreement is that we are very concerned about these severe and more severe weather conditions that are occurring because of climate change.

Madam Chair, this is a good amendment, and I would urge my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZA´LEZ-COLO´N).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. BRENDAN F. BOYLE OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in House Report 116–42.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following:

(9) The Paris Agreement recognizes that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions, and that it is a key component of and makes a contribution to the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I thank Chairman PALLONE, my colleague and neighbor from New Jersey. I also thank Chair ENGEL for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

My amendment to H.R. 9 takes language from the Paris Agreement and...
recognizes that adaptation of the agreement is a key component of the global response to climate change.

Climate change is one of the defining issues of our time, and we are in a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production to rising seas that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale.

Without dramatic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be far more difficult and costly.

The Paris Agreement for the first time brought all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and to adapt to its effects. The agreement charted a new course in the global climate effort.

This amendment stands for the American leadership that was displayed throughout the development and the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

In order to bring every nation to the table, it is essential that we retain our commitment to this agreement. That is why I urge support for this amendment as well as for the underlying bill.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I will close once the gentleman has yielded back.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. M. CAUL of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Madam Chair, this amendment basically attempts to state the following: Not only is climate change real and not only are there profound environmental reasons for addressing it, the Paris climate agreement was also a tremendous achievement of U.S. foreign policy. That is why we must keep it. The United States must remain in it.

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

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, again, I agree with the premise of this amendment, but it does not address reducing emissions. We should debate bipartisan solutions, as I stated in the past.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYD). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. PANETTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 116-42.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following new paragraph:

(9) American leadership encouraged widespread international participation in the Paris Agreement.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act.

As we know and as we have been hearing all day, this bill that we are considering ensures that the United States honors our commitments detailed in the Paris Agreement and lays the groundwork for further action on climate change.

By including this amendment in this bill, it will be crystal clear that it is the United States that has led and will continue to lead when it comes to influencing other nations to participate in the Paris Agreement.

Now, yes, I do admit that it was the leadership of the United States that got other nations of the world to come together and boldly declare our unified commitment to dealing with the growing climate crisis. We did that by explicitly committing ourselves to play a leadership role. We had to do that in order to attract other countries to join in the goal of limiting the temperature of our globe.

That is why the United States gave structural and directional leadership with ready greenhouse gas reduction targets and a vision for institutional design principles.

Moreover, in our efforts to entice other nations to be a part of the deal, the United States made recommendations for financing adoption, energy investment, and support for developing countries.

The U.S. then stepped up and led by example by announcing its intent to reduce carbon pollution by drastic levels, an act that underscored our role as a global leader on the issue of climate change.

It was that American ambition, that American action, that encouraged other nations around the world to set their sights and their standards higher and to be bolder on the most pressing issue that we face when it comes to climate change. As a result, we saw an unprecedented display of a global commitment to address that pressing issue.

That is why it is all the more disappointing that this administration announced its intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, an act that would make the United States the only country that pushed us and others into this agreement, the only country to reject this agreement.

If the United States abdicates its leadership role here, it will not only cost us influence in this agreement, it will also invite other countries to walk away from combating the climate crisis.

As Todd Stern, the former U.S. special envoy for climate change, stated at a World Resources Institute conference on May 30, "In the absence of the United States, you have a phenomenon of a fair number of countries... trying to pull back a little bit on some of the things that were agreed to, some of the compromises that were reached in Paris."

Madam Chair, we cannot let this happen. That is why I seek to include my amendment to H.R. 9 to strengthen this important bill, to stop the administration from advancing the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, and to reclaim our leadership role in combating climate change and protecting our planet.

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

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I agree with the premise that the world looks to the United States as a leader. Unfortunately, other countries are not leading—China and India, for instance.

This amendment, again, does not address reducing emissions. We need to look at leading as a nation on technology, innovation, and bipartisan solutions.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 116-42.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following paragraph:

(9) American cities, States, and businesses are stepping up and pledging to meet the Paris Agreement goals in the wake of absent and uncertain United States Federal leadership.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, this amendment recognizes that American cities, States, and businesses are stepping up and pledging to meet the Paris Agreement goals in the wake of absent
Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), my colleague.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment offered by my colleague, Congressman ROUDA, the amendment.

It was a low point of the Trump Presidency when President Trump announced his plans to recklessly begin withdrawal of the United States from the Paris climate agreement. This was an abandonment of our global leadership.

But I took heart watching the many cities, States, and localities step forward to declare their intention to keep the emission reduction commitments of the Paris accord. These include 20 cities and villages in the 10th District that have joined the Greenest Region Compact to implement sustainability plans to reduce the risk of global climate change and mitigate its effects.

Regardless of the lack of leadership from the White House on addressing climate change, our cities continue to drive the change needed to prevent a climate disaster.

I am glad this House is finally taking action with H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. I support the amendment to recognize the actions of the cities and States that continue to uphold the spirit of the Paris climate agreement.

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chair, brave for our States and brave for our communities. I think the only problem I have with the amendment is you seem to have to believe that the United States has to be involved in an international agreement for us to lead. We are the largest carbon reducer since 2015 in the world.

I think the Energy and Commerce Committee over the last Congress has led with bipartisanship that has come to the floor. That is where we need to get to eventually, instead of the “he said, she said,” point fingers, “you are bad.”

What can we do that gets across to the Senate? What can we do to get it to the President's desk? Moving an amendment and a bill that says, “Mr. President, you got out of the Paris accord, now sign this bill to undo what you just did,” no one believes he is going to sign that.

We also know that even if he vetoes that bill, we will be able to sustain it on this side.

We look forward to doing things that we did in the last Congress. We can address carbon capture, sequestration, utilization; advanced nuclear reforms; hydropower; and clean natural gas, which has also enhanced our national security; and energy efficiency.

Republicans are willing to work with my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee on conservation, things like energy efficiency, new source review, and forest management.

We are willing to talk about innovation, things like advanced nuclear power, as I mentioned; carbon capture, utilization, sequestration, pumped storage; battery technology through research and development; adaptation addressing the grid, adapting to the climate change issues; resiliency of our communities; genetically modified crops, if we have weather conditions or drier conditions.

There are things that we think we can move to address this debate that should get through the Senate and could get to the President's desk, but haranguing and hassling a President who has already decided to leave the accord and think he is going to sign a bill is just not going to happen. That is why I oppose this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

The amendment was agreed to. Amending No. 19 printed in House Report 116-42.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the agreement is as follows:

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following:

(Amendment No. 19 of the gentleman from California (Ms. PORTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.)

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from California (Ms. PORTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Chair, I am honored to be here today to introduce my amendment to the Climate Action Now Act, which highlights the critical role of technology in the fight against climate change. The United States must continue to invest in research and development of clean energy technology in order to meet our nationally determined contributions under the Paris climate accord.

We need American leadership in the fight against climate change. The U.S. has always led in research and innovation. Our laboratories and research universities are among the best in the world, and their ability to...
innovate to combat the world’s challenges are without parallel.

Climate change is an urgent challenge we must address, and America’s scientists and technologists have always risen to this challenge. Yet, instead of fighting climate change, this administration proposed slashing the budget for climate research and renewable energy programs.

Let’s take a look at the President’s proposed 2020 budget for the Department of Energy. President Trump would cut the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by more than 85 percent. This is the home at the Department of Energy for supporting every kind of renewable technology that we have developed and implemented.

President Trump proposed completely zeroing out the ARPA-E budget. ARPA-E was created to incentivize researchers to develop promising research into game-changing technologies that can meet our future research needs. Since 2009, 136 of these projects have attracted billions in private follow-on funding, creating private-public partnerships and American jobs.

President Trump has even proposed cutting State Energy Programs, which help States implement energy efficiency in schools and government buildings, saving taxpayers money.

Why is that important? Why do we now recognize and support the critical role that United States leadership in research and development can and must play in the fight against climate change?

These programs help our country develop new and improved technologies, foster entrepreneurship, drive small business growth, and create clean energy jobs.

In my home, California’s 45th Congressional District, there are 5,239 renewable energy jobs and 14,140 energy efficiency jobs. That is a total of 21,622 clean jobs. Those programs filter down to our laboratories, our universities, and our entrepreneurs leading American innovation.

I am proud to say that some of the great research and development happening to combat climate change is happening in California’s 45th District at the University of California, Irvine.

UC Irvine is an integrative public-private partnership that has led research and development of new technologies and promotes innovation.

UC Irvine is home to the Advanced Power and Energy Program from the National Fuel Cell Research Center, which focuses on developing new fuel cell technology.

UC Irvine engineers created the first power-to-gas hydrogen pipeline injection project in the country. This pipeline takes energy from the school’s solar panels, converts water to hydrogen and blends it with gas, which can be stored for later use. This allows us to use clean electricity that would otherwise go to waste, helping reduce pollutants in our air.

Now is the time to harvest the innovative technologies we have while investing in improving clean technologies for tomorrow. I am proud to champion and advance research and innovation.

We need to act now and keep the commitments we made to our coastlines, our community, our country, and the world when we signed the Paris climate accord.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, again, I agree with the premise of this amendment. Clean energy technologies are important in my hometown of Austin. We have a lot of clean energy in Irvine, California, a lot of clean energy, a lot of collaboration between our two States, but this is simply a finding and does not reduce our emissions.

I again would urge, since I do not think this will become law, that we work on a bipartisan solution, talking explicitly about what you are talking about. We can pass these bills out of the House; we can pass them out of the Senate; and if we can do it bipartisanship, we can get it signed into law.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Porter).

The question was taken, and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. Pallone. Madam Chair, 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 California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MRS. LEE OF NEVADA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in House Report 116-42.

Mrs. Lee. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following paragraph:

(9) Article 8 of the Paris Agreement states that “Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events” such as drought conditions and water scarcity.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. Lee) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Mrs. Lee. Madam Chair, my amendment would ensure that the administration takes into account the problems caused by water shortages and droughts when addressing climate change.

Climate change is no longer a threat to the future. We are experiencing the damaging consequences now globally and regionally in the United States.

According to the Government Accountability Office, climate change has already cost taxpayers over $350 billion over the last decade.

Water scarcity and drought conditions as a result of climate change have direct economic, legal, and national security implications for our society and for our systems of governance.

In my home State of Nevada, the water supply at Lake Mead is already dangerously low and could face emergency levels as soon as next year. As our water supply continues to diminish, water prices will continue to rise for families across southern Nevada, the United States, and the world.

Under Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, parties must recognize the importance of addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including drought and increased water scarcity. And since the United States cannot leave the Paris climate accord until November 4, 2020, we are still obligated to maintain certain commitments, and that includes recognizing the fact that rising temperatures pose an imminent threat to our water supply, especially in already arid regions.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. McCaul. Madam Chair, I will close once the gentlewoman yields back.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.
Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PAPPAS) having assumed the chair, Ms. NORTON, 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. 9) to direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The Speaker pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING STATE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

(Mrs. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 57 State teachers of the year from around the country who have convened in Washington.

These educators illuminate what is working in our education system. Their unique and important achievements fill me with pride and inspiration about what teachers can do for our communities when we put students first.

I welcome these outstanding teachers to Washington this week and to Capitol Hill this Thursday as part of a celebration of excellence.

I would like to congratulate the 2019 National Teacher of the Year, Rodney Robinson, who is a committed advocate for all his students and has made it his mission to bring a voice to the voiceless and to those who feel unseen or undervalued by their communities.

Mr. Robinson has been teaching social studies for 19 years to students at Virgil Binford Education Center inside the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center, teaching some of our Nation’s most vulnerable students.

Every student deserves a high-quality, equitable education. Mr. Robinson and all these educators work every day to fulfill that promise to their students.

Equity and empowerment are at the core of Mr. Robinson’s work and should also be a part of our work here at the Federal Government.

I also want to thank the Council of Chief State School Officers, or CCSSO, which, since 1952, has focused on excellence in public education. They are the oldest and most prestigious national honors program for teachers, and their work to celebrate and elevate the voices of teachers should be commended.

It is, likewise, our job as Members of Congress to continue to elevate the profession of teachers, elevate the voices of students, and work together to make sure their dreams are recognized.

CONGRATULATING NATE MACK ELEMENTARY ROBOTICS TEAM

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, almost 2 months ago, I spoke on this very floor to congratulate the robotics teams at Nate Mack Elementary and Greenspun Junior High School for advancing to the global robotics competition.

Today, I am proud to report back that Nate Mack Elementary robotics team is now the 2019 VEX IQ STEM Research Award World Champions. Greenspun Junior High also put up a tough fight and made it to the world finals.

I have closely followed the journey of both these robotic teams this year and even visited them. They are big sources of pride for Nevada’s Third District, and we could not be more honored to have been represented by them.

So, today, I want to congratulate Nate Mack Elementary robotics team and their coach, Casey Juliano, for their well-deserved win and once again recognize Greenspun Junior High and their coach, Matt Christian, for making it to the world championships.

On behalf of Nevada’s Third Congressional District, congratulations. We are proud.

WE ALL HAVE A PLACE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, in light of the recent horror attacks throughout the world and in our country, many people are very fearful.

The Nation and the Jewish community mourn another senseless attack after the shooting in California during the Passover celebration, while still grieving those lost in the attack at the Pittsburgh synagogue last year.

We stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters against the face of terror. These despicable attacks of hate have no place in our world. We all have a place in America. Hate, however, does not.

The American people have the right to pray together; they have the right to love together; and they have the right to worship together without fear.
country will cross the graduation stage, accept their diplomas, and get ready to begin their careers. It will be a weekend of well-deserved celebration. Their hard work and years of study have paid off. Yet, for too many of these students, they will soon face the reality of paying the high price of their diplomas.

Too many of these students will soon come face-to-face with a mountain of debt that will take them years, often decades to pay. Today, nearly 43 million Americans, that is one in six adults, have Federal student loan debt. The Federal student loan portfolio has risen to over $1.4 trillion.

Tomorrow’s graduates will face an average of $36,000 in debt, a crippling amount for any young person to shoulder before they have even entered the workforce. That amount of debt increases every single year. How can we expect young people in this country to choose the course of their careers, to continue living in their communities and plan and start their families while simultaneously allowing lenders to saddle them with loan burdens on decades-long repayment timelines?

Among borrowers of all ages with outstanding student loan debt, the median self-reported amount owed among those with less than a bachelor’s degree was $10,000. Bachelor’s degree holders owe a median of $25,000, and those with a postgraduate degree owe a median of $30,000. I have heard stories from students at colleges and universities throughout California’s 45th Congressional District.

Merhpad and her family immigrated to the United States in 2014. After they settled in Orange County, earning a college degree became her primary goal. But without Federal financial aid programs, such as the Pell grant, she would not have been able to afford and pursue an education. Her commitment and dedication to her education inspired her parents to also attend Irvine Valley College to pursue degrees.

She uses her financial aid to afford transportation, food, healthcare, and school supplies. Because she lives with her parents, she doesn’t need to spend financial aid on housing. But other students aren’t so lucky.

Community colleges typically don’t offer housing for their students, and with the cost of $1,000 to $2,000 in Orange County, it is almost impossible to afford to live near our colleges’ campuses.

Jose, a student at Saddleback College in Orange County is studying psychology and playing football. He is the eighth of 11 kids. He received a scholarship to cover his tuition and meals, but it isn’t enough to help him afford housing. Jose was homeless for two semesters, sleeping in his car and at his football teammates’ houses. Despite the challenge, he maintained a 3.2 GPA and he hopes to graduate from Saddleback to go on to pursue a degree in clinical psychology.

He explained, “I move forward towards graduation, believing that if I can overcome the adversities I have faced in my life, anyone can.” His persistence and dedication are inspiring. But no student should ever have to choose between getting an education and being hungry. Unfortunately, these stories are all too common. Too many students are struggling just to keep a roof over their heads.

Recently, I met with students from the University of California Irvine to discuss the challenges they face. One of those students was Stephanie, a first-generation student studying public health.

She completed the full college application process on her own, including applying for financial aid. She received both a Pell grant and a Cal grant, but she still has to work three part-time jobs throughout the year to afford housing and food.

She spends more than 12 hours most days in class and at her part-time jobs, fighting to ensure that she doesn’t have to take on student loans, so she can go on to pursue a masters in global public health. Stephanie is not the only one facing challenges affording living expenses while in college.

Another one of those students was Deshay, a junior at UC Irvine who will soon become the first person in his family to graduate from college. Deshay left home at 17, so when he applied for financial aid a year later, he did so on his own, declaring himself as an independent.

His expected family contribution was zero. While he got the funding necessary to attend UC Irvine, the aid didn’t cover all of his living needs, including groceries. Deshay had a goal when he started college. He wanted to graduate loan free. He didn’t want to take out loans to pay for his living expenses and so he took on two part-time jobs. But that meant giving up the chance of living in Orange County soon set in.

After nearly 2 months of eating only one meal a day, Deshay was left with few choices. When he finishes college next year, he will graduate with nearly $30,000 of debt.

Still, he is excited to graduate and to start giving back to our community. He plans to move home to Sacramento and he hopes to open a youth center modeled after Boys & Girls Clubs of the country. But Deshay is worried that he may not be able to successfully apply for the loan that he will need to start his business, in large part because of the student loan debt he carries.

College students who have fought to pursue an education, who work tirelessly toward their dreams, are being forced to put these dreams on hold. Why? Because the education necessary to achieve their dreams has left them buried in debt.

This Congress, as we work on the reauthorization of key legislation for students across this country, we need to ensure that students graduating this weekend and in coming weeks don’t have to choose between a job serving their communities or financial security or choose between putting food on the table and attending classes.

That is why I will be introducing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Student Loan Ombudsman Transparency Act, along with Senators Warren, Brown, and Udall. The bill does just what it says. It mandates that the Department of Education and student loan servicers share information and cooperate with the Financial Protection Bureau’s student loan education ombudsman. That ombudsman is the number one Federal official tasked with advocating for our students who are struggling to repay loans.

It also requires the ombudsman’s office be fully staffed at all times so the office can conduct the level of oversight necessary to protect student borrowers.

This is just the first step of many needed to improve student loan oversight and improve college affordability. I look forward to opportunities to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our students have the opportunity to access an affordable college education.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. Omar).

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the student debt crisis that is holding back our students, our families, and our economy.

Last year, American’s collective student loan debt surpassed $1.5 trillion. The shackles of debt keep former students and their families from seeing the economic prosperity promised to them by their education.

More than 40 million Americans now have student debt, and the amount of debt that the average student carries is rising. Student loan balances have more than doubled real terms since 2005. Average real student loan debt per capita for individuals between the ages of 24 to 32 has risen from $5,000 in 2005 to $10,000 in 2014.

It is driving down home ownership rates, especially for young people. One study found that a $1,000 increase in student loan debt causes a 1-to-2 percent drop in home ownership rates for borrowers in their late twenties and early thirties, threatening to undermine the long-term financial stability of an entire generation.

Young adults who graduate college with a student debt now have negative net worth with a median net worth of $1,900, down from $9,000 in 2013.

Student loan debt does not only impact young people. The number of people over 60 with student loan debt has quadrupled in the last four decades. Parents are increasingly jeopardizing their retirement to pay off loans they took out to pay for their kids’ education.

The source of student debt does not affect all Americans equally. Students
of color face a higher risk of defaulting on their student loans and struggle to find jobs to pay off these loans due to discrimination in hiring practices.

First generation and immigrant college students face much higher default rates, and women pay two-thirds of the $1.4 trillion in student debt.

The burden of this debt will be intensified postgraduation by the gender gap. It is time we started treating student debt like the national crisis it is. We need urgent action to address it. That is why I support debt-free and tuition-free college and will be introducing a bill to cancel all student debt.

Our Debt-Free College Act would make debt-free college a reality for students within 5 years. We can ensure that students graduate debt free and are not at a competitive disadvantage as a result of the burden of student loan debt.

Making public 2-year and 4-year colleges free and accessible to all is essential in investing in an equitable future. It would also provide an enormous middle class stimulus that would boost economic growth, increase home purchases, and fuel a new wave of small business formation.

Student debt is not the result of bad choices or behaviors. It is the result of a system that tells the students to get an education, go to college in order to have a stable life, but then does not provide the resources so that they can afford that education.

But be believe together we can reform that system.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we talk about opportunity a lot in this Chamber. The opportunity to thrive, the access to get ahead in life if you worked hard. We tell our kids every day that if you work hard, you can have access to a tremendous amount of opportunity.

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Yet we know now that many roadblocks exist through no fault of their own. This is why it is so critically important to talk about the college affordability issue and crisis in our country.

There are many motivations to go to school. For many first-generation college students like me, it is to help their families. Many want to give back to their community, yet many are not able to fulfill this dream because of affordability.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Michigan ranks among States in the bottom half in college attainment. Fewer than 30 percent of Michigan adults hold at least a bachelor's degree. We are closing the door on those who want to help others, whether it is their family or their broader community.

Studies show that first-generation college students go to college in order to help their families. Sixty percent of them say they want to help their families compared to 39 percent of students whose parents have earned a degree. This desire also extends to the community with 61 percent of first-generation college students wanting to give back to their communities compared to 43 percent of their non-first-generation peers.

Regarding college school loan debt, students tend to think about getting good enough grades when we go to college. That is what we were focused on. Not anymore, Mr. Speaker. Students today are forced to make a decision between a degree and access to that opportunity and toward the financial crisis.

In 2016, 64 percent of Michigan college graduates left school with debt, an average of over $30,000 a year, the 11th highest in the Nation. Even after factoring in grant programs, low-income families have to pay more than 70 percent of their income to cover college costs.

I want to share a story of my friend in college. It took him close to a decade because he was serving our country. He came back after serving not only as a U.S. marine but also doing civil service work for the United States Army. He came back, and all he wanted to do was become a schoolteacher, a public educator. He loves it. It is his passion.

As he sits in his classroom every single day educating our children, he has to also deal with the increase in debt, with the high cost of interest, and with all those things that now put him in a financial crisis.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that low- and middle-income households already face higher burdens. They are less likely to have family assistance and more likely to have other pressures such as a part-time job or family caretaking roles in addition to their schoolwork.

As many low-income students avoid applying to college altogether due to costs, borrowers who are tens of thousands of dollars in debt aren’t able to purchase homes, start their families, obtain employment in certain fields, and save for retirement. Student loan debt is further putting low- and middle-income students and their families into a downward spiral that leaves many worse off than they were when they started school.

This is not how it has to be. Student debt has a greater impact on low-income borrowers, as many of us know. In factual crises, low- and moderate-income households face education debt that has averaged 24 percent of their income in 2010 alone. The average for all households was 6 percent.

Looking at that more deeply and really unpacking that, we also have to look at food insecurity and housing insecurity when it comes to college affordability. The current state of college affordability leaves so many students in housing insecurity as well as food insecurity.

Most college students, Mr. Speaker, attending at least half-time are not eligible for SNAP assistance unless they work at least 20 hours per week or they work part-time in a work-study program, have young children, or meet certain other requirements. Again, they are stuck in a spiral of insecurity. However, working 20 hours a week has proven to lengthen the time it takes to graduate, just like for one of my best friends.

Increased college costs lead to a heightened risk of dropping out as well. I have seen many, many of my friends who started with me who couldn’t finish because they couldn’t afford it.

On-campus housing comprises anywhere from 24 to 42 percent of students’ total budgets. Meanwhile, the cost of off-campus housing surrounding universities tends to be higher than the standard market rate. We see that in all our districts across the Nation. These steep costs have consequences. One survey alone found that 42 percent of college students avoid going to campus due to the high cost of room and board.

In many cases, housing insecurity is coupled with food insecurity. In one study, 59 percent of a 4-year university experienced food insecurity. What that means is not having enough to eat, just like my colleague from California talked about for a specific resident in her community who only could afford to eat once a day.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that the more college becomes unaffordable and out of reach for working- and middle-class families, the more we subject students to poverty as they try to obtain higher education.

As income inequality increases and as we see it across our Nation every single day, and college tuition and living expenses go up as well, we are creating an environment where fewer people have an opportunity to thrive, fewer people can help their families, and fewer people have the means to help their community. This should not happen in our country, and we should be working day in and day out to correct this.

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

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 3 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to stand here in the House of Representatives, to have the opportunity to address colleagues, friends, and the Nation. I especially thank the leadership for allowing these privileges.

I am grateful to the many people who are still here as we continue with our statements on the floor of the House. You work tirelessly, and it seems that you work endlessly, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful to you for being here with us into the late hours as we present our floor messages.
Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be here tonight to announce that my dear friend and colleague, Representative Emanuel Cleaver, has joined me in reintroducing a resolution in recognition of Fair Housing Month.

Housing, Mr. Speaker, is a basic human right, but success is too often limited based upon race, sex, national origin, and sexual orientation. This resolution marks the 51st anniversary of the congressional passage of the Fair Housing Act, properly styled title 8 of the Code of 1968.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based upon race, national origin, religion, sex, or familial status. This year, Mr. Speaker, also marks the 31st anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988.

More than 50 years ago on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, and it is still considered, one of the greatest speeches in American history.

In his speech, Dr. King called for racial equality and an end to discrimination. Passionately, he argued that all men were created equal and should be treated equally. Although that was not the case in America at that time, he believed it must be the case for America’s future.

I must tell you, we have come a long way, Mr. Speaker, but we still have a great distance to go to realize the dream of Dr. King, a world where persons are judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin.

Dr. King was a very strong supporter of fair housing, and he envisioned a society free of discrimination.

I would like to speak just a moment about access to affordable housing. Each year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development releases the “Annexes of the Cost Assumptions Report.” This is released to Congress. It provides the best available estimates of homelessness and how it is impacting the United States.

According to the 2018 report, there were 552,830 persons experiencing homelessness in the United States on a single night in 2018.

The report also provides details on the demographics of the people experiencing homelessness. For example, for women alone in 2018, nearly 160,000 children and youth experienced homelessness, representing nearly 30 percent of the total persons who are in a state of homelessness. Over 216,000 women and girls experienced homelessness, or 40 percent of the total persons who experienced homelessness.

Racial minorities were disproportionately represented among people experiencing homelessness in 2018. African Americans comprised 40 percent of all people experiencing homelessness, despite making up only 13 percent of the Nation’s general population.

Hispanic or Latino persons comprised 25 percent of the total, despite making up but 18 percent of the Nation’s general population.

Nearly 38,000 veterans experienced homelessness in 2018, or 9 percent of the total.

Furthermore, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the U.S. has a shortage of more than 7.2 million rental homes that are affordable and available to the lowest income renters in our country.

After this systemic analysis, it became clear that we need to address the epidemic of discrimination in lending where communities of color are disproportionately targeted. I can recall having been on the Financial Services Committee, how we received testimony from persons who indicated to us that as a result of this downturn in 2008, the community of color, the African American community in particular, lost a generation of wealth. This is something that we are still trying to recover from.

This is why we need the Fair Lending for All Act. The Fair Lending for All Act would create such a fair lending testing program that would penalize individuals who discriminate.

In 1968, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, commonly known and well-known as the Kerner Commission, concluded in a groundbreaking report that White racism led to pervasive discrimination in employment, education, and housing.

In 2015, the Black homeownership rate was just over 40 percent, virtually unchanged since 1968. Over that same period, White homeownership increased 5.2 percentage points to 71 percent, 30 percentage points higher than the Black homeownership rate.

As a result, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968, 1 week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. In fact, there are many people who contend that before the demise of Dr. King, the Fair Housing Act would not have been signed as quickly as it was. Dr. King, as you know, was assassinated. For many of us, it was a sad and dark day in the history of our country. We were saddened by what happened to Dr. King, notwithstanding the fact that the Fair Housing Act became law as a result of his untimely demise.

The Fair Housing Act was conceived to battle discrimination in housing related to these housing transactions that are supposed to allow everyone to access housing but don’t always accomplish those goals.

More than 4 million Fair Housing Act violations occur each year against people of all protected classes, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Less than 1 percent of the violations of Fair Housing Act laws are reported each year.

In 2017, approximately 28,843 housing discrimination complaints were filed. Of these, 20,595 complaints, or approximately 70 percent, were filed with local private, nonprofit, fair housing centers.

Housing bills in the 116th Congress include H.R. 123, the FHA Additional Credit Pilot Program Reauthorization Act.

We introduced this on January 3, 2019. This would extend section 258 of the National Housing Act, which established an automated process for providing alternative credit rating information for mortgagors and prospective mortgagees.

I would add that, simply put, this would give persons who pay their light bills, their gas bills, their water bills, all of their utility bills timely but they don’t have thick credit files—in fact, they have thin credit files, and some of them have no credit at all, in addition to those utility bills paid on a monthly basis—an opportunity to have these payments scored so that they, too, might have the opportunity to own a home.

Representative Vicente Gonzalez is one of the cosponsors of this legislation.

H.R. 166, the Fair Lending for All Act, was introduced on January 3 of 2019, and this would establish an Office of Fair Lending Testing to test for compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, ECOA, and to create criminal penalties for invidious discrimination in lending.

H.R. 149, the Housing Fairness Act, was introduced on January 3, 2019, and it would instruct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to conduct a nationwide testing program. This nationwide testing program would be utilized to detect and document differences in the treatment of individuals who visit or purchase housing or obtain a refinancing of a home mortgage loan. It would measure patterns of adverse treatment because of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, disability status, or national origin of renters, home buyers, or borrowers.

And it would measure the prevalence of such discriminatory practices across the housing and mortgage lending market.

H.R. 165, Improving Access to Homes for Heroes Act. This was introduced January 3, 2019. It would provide Congress with the information it needs, as we work toward ending homelessness among our veterans, by requiring HUD to provide Congress with an annual report that gives a comprehensive assessment of the efforts being made to provide housing assistance to our veterans, and it would also require public housing agencies to include veterans in their public housing planning.
Mr. Speaker. I am honored to be associated with all of the bills. We are honored to act as original sponsors of all of these pieces of legislation, but I am much more proud of the fact that, in this country, we are still making progress, but we really have come a long way and integrated the public housing, housing paid for with American tax dollars.

I can remember a time when there were neighborhoods that persons of African ancestry were restricted from living in. Restrictive covenants were prevalent. And there are still some neighborhoods that there is a degree of difficulty acquiring access to; but, generally speaking, restrictive covenants are no longer in existence and that they are commonly used to exclude persons of color, and other persons as well, based on religious preferences, from the neighborhoods.

This is a country that still has a long way to go. But this is a country that has made some great strides.

Notwithstanding the strides, however, we must continue to do our very best to make sure every person who wants housing and can afford it can get housing, which means that we have to have affordable housing.

I was very proud this week that just passed, in Houston, Texas, to visit an area in my district, the Ninth Congressional District of Texas, where a project had been razed, as in eviscerated, and there was a raising, if you will, of another project.

This project cost approximately $30 million, and it was subsidized in part from CDBG dollars from this Congress, about $3 million.

It was a wonderful thing to see this new growth, if you will, this new housing development in this community. It is a wonderful project that has amenities that you might expect to find in an upscale neighborhood.

Within the center for persons to use, the common area, there is a business center right within that complex. There is also a facility for meetings. There was an exercise room. And their center for persons to use, the common area, there is a business center right within that complex. There is also a facility for meetings.

I want to have the opportunity to go on record with the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

848. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Gregory Colonson, Cy W. Neuman, United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 903(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 106-136, Sec. 500(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

849. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department’s intent to commence chemical agent destruction operations at the Blue Grass Army Depot Chemical demilitarization site in Richmond, KY, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1512(4); Public Law 91-121, Sec. 409(b)(4); (83 Stat. 609); to the Committee on Armed Services.

850. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s 2019 Annual Report to Congress on Chemical and Biological Warfare Defense, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1523(a); Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1703; (107 Stat. 1854); to the Committee on Armed Services.

851. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting a partial report containing six report requirements out of seven examining the health of the defense electronics industrial base, including analog and passive electronic parts, substrates, printed boards, assemblies, connectors, and cabinets by January 31, 2019, pursuant to Public Law 115-252, Sec. 845(a); (132 Stat. 1881); to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MURPHY of California, Mr. TED Lieu of California, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2426. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BRISCOE of Maryland, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. THOME, Mr. McCaIN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. LURIA, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2427. A bill to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ALLEN, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 2428. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements or treatment limitations with respect to diagnostic examinations for breast cancer that are less favorable than such requirements with respect to screening examinations for breast cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NEAL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COLE, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 2429. A bill to restore administrative law judges to the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COSTER (for himself, Mr. DRUTCH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MENG, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MOUTLON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. QUISENBERRY, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. McCOVIES, Mr. BLUMENFELD, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PALLONE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. OMAR, Mr. MEKES, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CAIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. BUMDAHMON, Ms. EEHOS, Mr. CHINNERS, Ms. JULY CHI of California, and Mr. ACUÍLAR):

H.R. 2430. A bill to provide for punishments for insider fraud, and for other fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 2431. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to address workforce shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 2432. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress on the artificial intelligence strategy of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. COOK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TUCKER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOHMER, Mr. MCCINTOCK, Mr. BACON, Mr. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. VOGG, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 2433. A bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. Kuster of New Hampshire, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 2434. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DeFAZIO (for himself, Mr. GRAVE of Missouri, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2440. A bill to provide for the use of funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the purposes for which the funds were collected and to ensure that funds credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used to support activities for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 2441. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the public service loan forgiveness program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. CRIST, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. McGovern):

H.R. 2442. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for the humane treatment of dogs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BARE, Mr. HUGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. JOHN of Louisiana):

H.R. 2443. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to update certain procedures applicable to commerce in firearms and to remove criminal prohibitions on interstate firearms transactions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McCaul:

H.R. 2444. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State to make direct loans under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 2445. A bill to provide minimum standards for transactions secured by a dwelling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BLUMENFELD (for himself, Mr. Mrazek, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 2446. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that bonds used to finance professional stadiums are not treated as tax-exempt bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRINDISI (for himself and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 2447. A bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. Young):

H.R. 2448. A bill to provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 2449. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on duty hours for yardmaster employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CARPER of Texas (for himself and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 2450. A bill to establish a demonstration program at a military installation in the United States to evaluate the feasibility and benefits of using innovative technologies and systems to assist in the management of military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. Langevin):

H.R. 2451. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post
H3404

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Office”; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DeLAURO (for herself, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Costa, Mrs. Brownley, Mr. Carabajal, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Moore, Ms. Rush, and Mr. Higgins of New York):

H.R. 2453. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to vehicle weight limits for certain logging vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. Courtestey, Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, and Mr. Golliher):

H.R. 2455. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require a certificate of need for aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone except in accordance with a law or regulation of a State; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. Courtestey, Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, and Mr. Golliher):

H.R. 2466. A bill to establish a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of such mapped data to homeowners, businesses, to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. Huffman, and Ms. Norton):

H.R. 2467. A bill to authorize the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself and Ms.uster of New Hampshire):

H.R. 2468. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program supporting trauma centers with violence intervention and violence prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself and Mrs. Radelwagen):

H.R. 2469. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a program that enables college-bound residents of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa to have greater choices among institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Sherrill, and Mr. Riggleman):

H.R. 2470. A bill to extend the State Opioid Response Grants program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 2471. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture in the marine economic zone except in accordance with a law authorizing such action; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. Cummings, and Ms. DeLauro):

H. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of October 28 as “Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself and Mr. Peterson):

H.R. 2480. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to study regulatory and legislative improvements for the livestock, insect, and agricultural commodities transport industries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself and Mr. Cuellar):

H.R. 2481. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit with respect to any stillborn child of a taxpayer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself and Ms. Rooney of Florida):

H.R. 2482. A bill to establish a pilot program to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. DeVito of Florida, Mr. Murphy, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Winkfield, Ms. Correa, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Norton, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Cisneros, Mr. Carabajal, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Hastings, Ms. Moore, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Mr. Espallat, Mr. Cox of California, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Lowenthal, and Mr. Radelwagen, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Thompson of California, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. Hill of California, Ms. Cardenas, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Ms. Kendra S. Horn of Oklahoma, Ms. Mica, Mr. Roybal-Allard, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Rush, Ms. Judy Chu of California, Ms. Titus, Mr. Ryan, Ms. McCollum, and Ms. Brownley of California):

H. Res. 337. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2019 as “National Health Awareness Month”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BASS (for herself, Ms. Bonamici, Ms. Schakowsky, and Ms. Mann)

H. Res. 338. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2019 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Ms. DelBene, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Killdeer, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Sherrano, Mr. Winkfield, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Brown of Maryland, Ms. Jayapal, Ms. Demings, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. Frankel, Ms. Cicilline, Ms. Norton, Mr. Noonan, Ms. Castor of Florida, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Espallat, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Schakowsky, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Cardenas, Mr. DelFazio, Ms. Brownley of California, Mr. Thompson of California, Ms. Sanchez, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Ms. Shriver of Alabama, Mr. Takano, Ms. Dingell, Mrs. Hartleroe, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Mr. Yarmuth, Mr. Hill of Arkansas, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Adams, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Moore, Ms. TTitus, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. Clark of Massachusetts, and Mr. Rush):

H. Res. 340. A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encourage Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Ms. Norton):

H. Res. 341. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May as “National Bladder Cancer Awareness Month”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself and Ms. DeGette):

H. Res. 342. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools.
Day: to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. Omar, Mr. COOK, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. COULUM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAOKOWSKI, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOCOOL, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H. Res. 343. A resolution recognizing the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and commending Muslims in the United States and throughout the world for their faith; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 344. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2, 2019, as a “National Day of Reason” and recognizing the central importance of reason in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Res. 345. A resolution recognizing widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHI, Mr. ADKINS, Ms. O’MARA, Mr. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SHEARON, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Res. 346. A resolution recognizing the devastation wrought by terrorist bombings in Sri Lanka and observing 10 years since the end of Sri Lanka’s decades-long civil war, which ended on May 18, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. Kim, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CROW, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FINKENAUER, Mr. KEVIN FATTI of Oklahoma, Mr. HAGEDOHNS, Mrs. CRAIG, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. FINCHER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WATKINS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARDENAS, and Mr. HORSEFORD):

H. Res. 347. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 5, 2019, through May 11, 2019, as “National Small Business Week” to celebrate the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States; to the Committee on Small Business.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 2423. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 2427. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 2428. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2429. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2430. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 2431. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 2432. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 2433. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 2434. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2435. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SAN NICOLAS:

H.R. 2436. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SAN NICOLAS:

H.R. 2437. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SAN NICOLAS:

H.R. 2438. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 2439. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 2440. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 2441. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—Congress has the authority to regulate interstate commerce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 2442. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 2443. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 2444. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 2445. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 2446. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 2447. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CARRAJAL:

H.R. 2448. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CARRAJAL:

H.R. 2449. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CARTER of Texas:

H.R. 2450. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 6, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 2451. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 6, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 2452. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 2453. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—Congress has the authority to regulate interstate commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSTON of South Dakota:

H.R. 2454. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

H.R. 2455. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania: H.R. 2455.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 Clause 3—Congress has the ability to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Ms. LEE of California: H.R. 2456.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. MOORE: H.R. 2457.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL: H.R. 2458.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. O’HALLERAN: H.R. 2459.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. PENCE: H.R. 2460.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. PHILLIPS: H.R. 2461.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. QUGLEY: H.R. 2462.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. RICHMOND: H.R. 2463.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).
By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER: H.R. 2464.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to institute this legislation which is necessary and proper for the protection of the American people.
By Mr. SABLAL: H.R. 2465.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. TRONE: H.R. 2466.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution:
"The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"
By Mr. YOUNG: H.R. 2467.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
"The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes"
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KEVIN CRAMER, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless waves, we praise You for Your magnificent love that awakens us each day.
Thank You for lawmakers who strive to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Lord, continue to guide their feet and teach them Your paths.
In these complex times, show yourself strong on behalf of those who love You. Solve the riddles that confound us. Confuse those who seek to hinder the unfolding of Your loving providence.
Lord, bring sanity to a world that often seems to spin out of control. Nothing is impossible for you, so transform our dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.
We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).
The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. Senate, President pro tempore, Washington, DC, May 1, 2019.
To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KEVIN CRAMER, a Senator from the State of North Dakota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY, President pro tempore.

Mr. CRAMER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week the Senate is continuing to make progress in consideration of the President’s nominees. By the end of this week, three more executive branch and five court vacancies will have been filled with thoroughly qualified individuals.
Already, these uncontroversial nominees have earned overwhelming bipartisan support. Yesterday, more than two-thirds of the Senate voted to confirm William Cooper to serve as general counsel for the Department of Energy. Mr. Cooper’s expertise and energy policy was evident to Chairman MURKOWSKI and our colleagues in committee who voted by voice to report this nomination to the full Senate. Now we have put a sharp lawyer on the job at DOE.
Later in the day, we confirmed two more well-qualified executive branch nominees to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the State Department’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs by even wider margins. Each received bipartisan support in committee. So, again, I am glad to see a similar degree of swift, reasonable consideration here on the floor.

I might add that these are the kinds of nominees who, a few years ago, would have been approved on a voice vote. Today the Senate will turn to a slate of judicial nominees with their own impressive trail of credentials—things like prestigious clerkships and strong reviews from the American Bar Association. Most importantly, all have demonstrated their commitment to the rule of law.

Celebrating small wins for comity in the personnel business is, of course, only necessary in the wake of, literally, years of unprecedented partisan obstruction. But I will readily express my hope that in the coming days and weeks, we will continue to work toward clearing the Executive Calendar backlog and confirming more well-qualified nominees.

HEALTHCARE
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, while the Senate may be writing a new chapter of bipartisan productivity, the same cannot be said for the House under Democratic leadership. On this side of the Capitol, we have passed timely legislation to address real, urgent policy priorities. S. 1, for example, helps fight back against anti-Semitism and attends to several other pressing matters with respect to American foreign policy in the Middle East.
The Senate debated the bill and passed it by a wide bipartisan majority. We sent it over to the House, and now it is just sitting there, gathering dust. It is gathering dust because Democratic leadership is more interested in making flashy political points and picking fights with the President than in making meaningful bipartisan progress.

House Democrats are uninterested in our important foreign policy legislation. What has captured their energy and attention instead? This week they are giving prime billing to a scheme
that would snatch away the private health insurance plans that more than 180 million Americans rely on and jeopardize the Medicare coverage counted on by tens of millions more. That is what they are up to this week.

The Committee, and by extension the Democratic leadership, have officially granted a platform to this proposal, which could best be described as Medicare for None. That is not just some cute phrase. It is literally what that program would usher in: an end to the Medicare Program as American seniors have known it for generations. Democrats want to take the program that seniors have paid into, which we ought to be shoring up and stabilizing, and, instead, pile every other American into it—one size fits all. That is what it is: End Medicare as we know it; reuse its name for a new sort of built-from-scratch, government-administered plan, and make sure the resulting Washington nightmare is the only game in town by outlawing choice and competition from the private sector. That is what they want to do.

To the 60 million seniors on Medicare, most of whom like things the way they are, Democrats say: Too bad. To the 300 million other Americans who rely on private health coverage from their employers, many of whom like their own plans, our Democratic colleagues say: Too bad. All of these things that American families count on, I guess my Democratic colleagues want to wipe them all away in favor of this untested government takeover—completely untested.

In Congresses past, this kind of far-left proposal would have been unlikely to ever receive a hearing. Democrats would have taken one look at this socialist steamroller and run away from it like the plague. Jeopardize current health coverage for nearly all Americans—one way or another—for the sake of leftwing ideology? Who would go for that?

Needless to say, times seem to have changed. Now, across the aisle, this level of radical intrusion is the proud rallying cry both here in Congress, and, of course, out on the Presidential campaign trail. One of the major ironies is that Medicare is not even safely on course. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination J. Campbell Bark er, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination T. Andrew Grassley, of Iowa, to be United States Senator for the State of Iowa, to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Thad Cochran.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination Matthew J. Peters, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX REFORM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week we got the first estimate of economic growth for the first quarter of 2019, and the news was excellent. The economy grew at a robust 3.2 percent in the first quarter of 2019, smashing expectations. The news is particularly notable because the first quarter of the year is typically regarded as a weak quarter for growth.

Then, this morning, CNBC reported that 275,000 jobs were created in April—also, far exceeding expectations.

And of course these are just the latest pieces of good news about the economy. The economy is thriving, unemployment is low, job creation is up, personal income is up, wages are up, business investment is up, and much more.

How did we get here? Well, just a couple of years ago, our economy was struggling. Some experts were predicting that weak growth would be the new normal and the economic progress we have made over the past 2 years wasn’t supposed to happen.

At the beginning of 2017, the Congressional Budget Office projected growth of 2.3 percent for 2017, 2 percent for 2018, and just 1.7 percent for 2019.

Actual growth, of course, exceeded those numbers: 2.5 percent for 2017, 3 percent for 2018—a full percentage point higher than the CBO’s projection—and 2019 is clearly off to a great start.

So, again, how did we get here? Well, after President Trump was elected and Republicans took office, we set out to do something about the economy. We knew that Americans were struggling. Recovery from the great recession was long and slow, wages were stagnant, and too many families were living paycheck to paycheck. American families needed relief, and Republicans were committed to giving it to them. That meant getting our economy going again.

If the economy isn’t thriving, then, American families aren’t thriving. You need a strong economy to produce the kinds of jobs, wages, and opportunities that American workers need to flourish.

So we got right to work trimming some of the burdensome regulations that were acting as a drag on economic growth, and we made it clear to businesses that we were committed to creating the conditions that would allow them to create new jobs and opportunities for American workers.

But we knew that while cutting oppressive regulations was important, more needed to be done. So at the end of 2017, we passed a historic reform of our outdated Tax Code that slashed tax rates for businesses, expanded business owners’ ability to invest in their operations and their workers, and made American businesses more competitive in the global economy. We saw the results: a thriving economy that is producing good jobs, better wages and benefits, and more opportunities for American workers.

Importantly, the benefits of this economic growth are being spread far and wide. In March, the Wall Street Journal noted:

All sorts of people who have previously had trouble landing a job are now finding work. Racial minorities, those with the lowest education and people working in the lowest-paying jobs are getting bigger pay raises and, in many cases, experiencing the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for their groups. They are joining manufacturing workers, women in their prime working years, Americans with disabilities and those with criminal records, among others, in finding improved job prospects after years of dis-appointment.

That, again, is from the Wall Street Journal.

Getting our economy going again was a huge part of tax reform. We wanted to make life better for American workers, and we knew that a strong economy was the only way to create prosperity for Americans. We wanted to make life better for American workers, and we wanted to make sure that their families and the employees in the workplace all participated in a stronger economy. So we focused on creating the conditions for economic growth.

But that is not all we did with tax reform. We also cut individual tax rates across the board, we doubled the child tax credit, and we nearly doubled the standard deduction. Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the average family
of four received a tax cut of more than $2,000 in 2018.

We also made it easier for millions of Americans to file their taxes by reducing the need to itemize. In addition to promoting economic growth generally, we created opportunity zones to focus specifically on helping to revitalize distressed communities. Championed by Senator Scott, the opportunities zones provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provide incentives for long-term investment in low-income communities, with the goal of creating new jobs and economic opportunity for local residents.

We also took action to provide additional support to families by creating an incentive for employers to offer paid family leave to their workers.

Two-plus years ago, Republicans in Congress and the President set out with one goal in mind—to make life better for American families. I am proud that tax reform has expanded opportunity for Americans and made life easier for families, and we are not stopping here.

Republicans will keep working to ensure economic growth that we are experiencing continues and that every American has access to a secure and a prosperous future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM BARR

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as we speak, Attorney General William Barr is testifying before a hearing in front of the Judiciary Committee.

There may not be a member of this administration with more to answer for than the current Attorney General, and that is a pretty high bar. His confirmation occurred only a few months ago. Yet, in just a short time, Mr. Barr’s conduct has raised damning questions about his impartiality and about his fitness.

Just last night we learned that Special Counsel Mueller sent a private letter to Department of Justice with a month’s notice to the Attorney General that took issue with Mr. Barr’s early description of the Russia investigation’s conclusions.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated March 27, 2019.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
THE SPECIAL COUNSEL’S OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2019.


Hon. William P. Barr,
Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Dear Attorney General Barr: I previously sent you a letter dated March 25, 2019, that enclosed the introduction and executive summary of the Special Counsel’s report marked with redactions to remove any information that potentially could be protected by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e); that concerned declination decisions; or that related to a charged case. We also had marked an additional two sentences for review and have now confirmed that these sentences can be released publicly.

Accordingly, the enclosed documents are in a form that can be released to the public consistent with legal requirements and Department policies. I am requesting that you authorize their public release at this time.

We communicated that concern to the Department on the morning of March 25.

We also received a letter from the Acting Attorney General yesterday Speaker Pelosi and I had a productive meeting with President Trump at the White House on the topic of infrastructure. We all need to invest substantial resources in infrastructure. We all agreed on the need to modernize and rebuild our roads, bridges, highways, and also our schools, our housing, and our power grids, and there was a specific conversation about the need to invest in expanding broadband to underserved communities.

We told the President we needed labor protections, we needed a green New Deal, and we needed public-private partnerships, which even he has virtually no real pay-fors—public-private partnerships, which even he has gotten huge, huge benefits recently to pay for it. We Democrats put in the wealthy and the powerful who got huge, huge benefits recently to pay for it. That may not be the way the President wants to pay for it, but we want to know how he would because last time he came up with a bill that had virtually no real pay-fors—public-private partnerships, which even he discredits. That bottom line is simple. We will get an infrastructure bill if the President will come up with pay-fors, and then we can put ours forward—we have...
Seven or eight people at the meeting all told the President that we will not get a bill done unless he comes up with pay-fors. He agreed. He said: I will. He said: I will. The administration must not take the Tax Code and make it any more regressive than it already is. I prefer to make it more progressive. To tell the wealthy that they are getting a huge tax break and then to tell the middle-class, working people that they are paying for the bulk of this is totally unfair and unacceptable to this Member.

The President said he would come up with pay-fors, but this morning I was disappointed. I saw both the Acting Chief of Staff, Mr. Mulvaney, and the Wall Street Journal editorial board mock the effort we are trying to make to rebuild the Nation’s infrastructure. Their criticism? Too much spending, the deficit is too high, and we can’t find revenue. Funny that we didn’t hear those same criticisms when the Republicans in Congress were jamming through a partisan, unpaid-for $2 trillion tax cut for the wealthiest of Americans. That doesn’t have to be paid for, but everyone has to. We are willing to pay for both, although I am not willing to pay for any big tax cuts on the wealthy that didn’t pass with a single Democratic vote. I hope, for the good of the country and for the need of infrastructure—we know when we build infrastructure, America grows, and jobs are created. So we hope Mr. Mulvaney and the Wall Street Journal editorial board will rethink their knee-jerk partisan reactions.

Let’s tour it. Mulvaney is different. He was with the President. He supported the tax cuts. The Wall Street Journal editorial board believes it is OK to increase the deficit to reduce tax cuts on the wealthy but not OK when you are building infrastructure. Ninety-five percent of all Americans don’t agree with that. Let’s hope Donald Trump doesn’t follow their ministrations.

The bottom line is, we hope to hear from the White House in several weeks, one way or the other.

Mr. President, what are your pay-fors? We want to know, and the American people want to know. Right now it is the biggest barrier to preventing us from getting an infrastructure bill.

**Climate Change**

Mr. President, finally, on climate change. Over the past few months, I have been asking Leader MCCONNELL and my Republican colleagues three simple questions on climate: Do they agree that climate change is real; do they believe it is caused by humans; and do they believe we should take significant action? It seems that after repeating those questions over and over again, we have finally gotten some results.

Yesterday the New York Times said in an article that some Senate Republicans, “in a switch,” are starting to cite the same reason for some of their policy suggestions, be they support nuclear energy or carbon capture research. That is a first.

The fact that we have been asking our Republican colleagues the question: Do you believe in climate change, and now the fact that they feel compelled to say yes, even though we don’t agree with their solutions—which we may not—is progress. It is not enough progress, given that the globe is at stake, but at least it is a step forward, and we haven’t seen any steps come out of our Republican friends in a long time.

Hopefully, our Republican friends are finally coming around to realizing that climate change is real and caused by humans. Maybe they are looking at poll numbers and realizing that calling climate change a hoax looks as crazy as it sounds. Maybe they are seeing the changes in their own States with the climate. Whatever the reason, it is at least a little bit of progress—and we will have to take whatever little bit we can get from our normally intransigent Republican friends on this issue—and we welcome it.

That said, the types of policies my Republican colleagues talk about when they talk about climate do a disservice to the term “low-hanging fruit.” Of course, I welcome smart and sensible solutions from anywhere in this Chamber, but there is a difference between getting serious on climate change and just mouthing the words or coming up with solutions that don’t really solve the problem.

Some of my colleagues have called for funding for more research on carbon capture research. That is a first. It should be part of any plan, but in the face of an existential threat of our time, if they support carbon capture but don’t go bigger, don’t advocate more solutions than that, they are not doing close to enough of what we need. We must go bolder. We must grapple with the central challenge—reducing carbon emissions as quickly as possible. The good news is, we can do that with affordable and reliable technologies that exist today.

We have waited far too long to address the climate crisis in a serious way. We now need to act in a way that matches the urgency and scale of this challenge. My Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle mocked the Green New Deal, but the growing youth movement leading the fight for the Green New Deal understands something that I think most Americans do: We must think big, bold, and fast, and that we can create jobs and economic opportunity for families in this transition. We welcome the glimmer, the little, small green sprouts of progress, whatever we can get.

Our Republican friends are starting to answer our pointed questions on climate change, but now the next step is, they have to think bigger and talk to the leader about pursuing real legislation instead of just partisan stunts. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll. The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Cassidy). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be suspended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**National Day of Prayer**

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, every President since 1952 has signed a national declaration declaring a National Day of Prayer. It is bipartisan cooperation to recognize people who pray and who set aside time to spend time with God and pray for the Nation.

I ask, frankly, for us as a party and as a body and as a nation, it is a good thing to pause.

This year, on May 2, with the theme “Love One Another,” we will again have a National Day of Prayer. There is not a requirement for Americans to pray. There is not a requirement for people to direct themselves to pray by a certain method at a certain location. It is just a call to the Nation to say that we have great needs as a country.

As we watch the attacks on synagogues in our country, as we watch bombings of Christians in Sri Lanka, gun battles that have erupted in churches in the United States, mosques that have been attacked, people of faith being targeted simply because of their faith, it is reasonable for us as a nation to pause and say “How are we doing?” as this year’s theme is “Love One Another.”

We as a nation have a long history of prayer. Hanging in the Rotunda in this Capitol Building is a painting called the Embarkation of the Pilgrims. That painting depicts the founding of America. It has been hanging in that same spot in the Rotunda since 1843. The painting is simply a group of people on a deck of a ship leaving out from Europe and huddling around an open Bible and praying. The painting was designed and created to depict how America began in the 1600s—people on the deck of a ship, around an open Bible, praying.

That is still something I would encourage Americans of faith to stop and do, and it is still one of the most humbling experiences that I experience each time someone from my State of Oklahoma catches me, as someone did this morning, and says: Every day, my wife and I pray for you.

It is not a terrible thing to do as a nation—to love and pray for each other and for the future direction of our country.

If I can model for the Nation for just a moment in my own way and encourage the Nation on our National Day of
Prayer to pause and pray, I would simply say this:

Let us pray as a nation.

Father, guide us. We need Your help. The controversy, the division in our Nation, the anger, the struggle. Help us to be kind to one another. Help us to be able to see each other as You have created us and to respect You, Your wisdom, and Your guidance. Father, we admit that we do not know as much as You, so we need Your help. We need Your insight.

For our first responders and our military scattered around this Nation and around the world, we pray for Your protection for them. We pray that You would give them insight to help them represent us well.

For members of our State Department, members in our government who are scattered around the Earth, members of our intelligence community and others who serve us every day, God, would You just and quickly You protect them in their tasks and give them the insight they need.

For Federal employees who serve our Nation each day and for members of our Nation who are finding ways to serve one another in our communities, would You help us, this day to love one another and to be able to set the tone for a world that is watching us as a nation.

Help us represent well, You, who You have called us to as individuals.

In the Name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

CONTRABAND CELL PHONES IN PRISON

Mr. President, on Facebook, a posting was made not long ago, and it was sent to a correctional facility in Oklahoma, and this was the posting, simply a question: ‘‘How do I contact the facility regarding your inmates that sex offenders have a cell phone in your prison and they are having contact with children on social media?’’

An inmate who is a sex offender with a cell phone in a prison in Oklahoma contacting children should give a chill to all of us. I wish that were the only example. Just in Oklahoma last year, 7,518 cell phones that were contraband cell phones were picked up in Oklahoma prisons—just last year, 7,518 contraband cell phones.

This is within the correctional facility. This is from one of the facilities. That table is 12 feet long, and in many spots, the cell phones are stacked up 10 deep on that table. These were all taken from inside the prison. Do you want to know what that looks like for all of us? That is a correctional facility across the State. The challenge that we have is—for all of us—how do we stop these cell phones from getting inside the prison? That is a corruption issue, and sometimes it is a perimeter issue. It will be wrapped in duct tape and thrown over the fence. It will be slipped through at some point. A guard or someone who works inside the prison will be paid off to deliver it and drop it in a certain spot. The result of it is the same: contact with people on the outside—contact that leads to dramatic effects. It is not only contact with people outside, like these predators who are sex offenders reaching out to children from inside the prison, but over and over again there are consequences.

We have the consequences of individuals—for instance, white-collar criminals who are continuing to run their companies. There was the famous occasion with Pharma Bro, who bought out pharmaceutical companies, drove out competition, jacked up the prices, and ended up going to Federal prison, but even from prison he was able to get access to a cell phone and continue running his pharmacy operation from inside the prison.

There was an occasion not long ago in Oklahoma where an individual who was a murderer and, while he was in the State pen, used cell phones to direct others to distribute methamphetamine for him across all of Northeastern Oklahoma. He was running a meth ring with his cell phone from inside the prison.

There was Lee Correctional Institution, where there was a mass riot that broke out inside the facility. In that riot seven inmates were killed and 17 others were injured. This happened in South Carolina. Afterward the South Carolina Department of Corrections director blamed cell phones for fueling the deadliest prison riot they had in South Carolina.

In another case, back in an Oklahoma prison, many of those charged within the prison have gang ties—MS-13, Crips, Indian Brotherhood, Universal Aryan Brotherhood, Irish Mob. Records show that those individuals had access to cell phones and were running their gangs outside the prison from inside the prison. We have one individual who is serving 20 years in prison for robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon and drug manufacturing and who used his cell phone to control the methamphetamine distribution and transactions outside the prison.

We have a RICO case in the Northern District of Oklahoma right now, which is racketeering, which is happening from large numbers of cell phones in an Aryan Brotherhood gang, a White supremacist group that is operating a drug ring outside the prison and coordinating their work and operation inside the prison.

This is not unique to Oklahoma. This is happening in prisons all over the country. We can go to one after another. The two issues that have to be addressed are stopping the flow within, but the second, more obvious question that I hear from people when I raise this issue is this: Why can’t the prisons just jam the cell phones? That is a great question. Federal law does not allow State prisons to jam the cell phones.

Why don’t we change that law?

That is another great question, and it should have been answered by this body a long time ago. But communications companies and cell phone company lobbyists overwhelmed this body and pushed back and said: Let’s study the issue.

For years the cell phone lobby has come to Members of Congress and said: We totally agree with you that this is a problem. Let’s study it.

I have met personally now for several years with the leadership of the FCC, which has jurisdiction over this, and said ‘‘Let’s resolve this issue about prison cell phones,’’ and every year when I meet with FCC folks, they say ‘‘We are studying it.’’ At the same time, meth rings and sexual predators are operating inside our prisons. ‘‘We are studying it.’’

I waited patiently until the last study came out. The summary of the last study that just came out on cell phones in prisons and jamming them—the study basically came back and said: We need more study on this issue that was the result of the study.

One of the prisons got permission and a waiver to test a cell phone jammer in their prison with what is called a microjammer; they can put a jammer to block the cell phone coverage in one particular housing unit. They came back with the results of that from one individual State prison and said it was successful. The cell phone companies responded by saying: Hey, we wish you would have included us in that study. We should have had been on that study. We need to do another study on top of your study to make sure it is all correct. Study after study after study is done when this is what is happening in our prisons.

Let me just bring this up to the cell phone industry: You do not want your company name attached to pedophiles in prisons who are contacting children outside the prison, waiting until they are released. You do not want your company name attached to a meth ring being operated inside a prison because you wanted to study the issue more. You do not want your company name attached to a prison riot where they directly linked the access to cell phones as leading up to that riot.

Every one of the major cell phone companies in the United States has done lab testing of jammers in their laboratories. This is not something that needs to be studied again. They all know the results.

What is worse, if you go back to 2005—New Zealand had already seen this issue arising in 2005. New Zealand was tested and one of the cell phone companies in their country, and guess what. They studied it and implemented a policy to start jamming cell phones in their prisons in the following years. The cell phone companies overseas had already studied this in New Zealand.

Let’s take it to the UK in 2012. In 2011, all of the cell phone companies...
worked with the UK Government to be able to study cell phones in prisons, came to a decision about the best way to jam those signals, and, in 2012, the UK passed a piece of legislation to get this resolved.

So yes, there has been studies in labs; it has been studied in New Zealand; it has been studied in the UK; and all we are hearing is it needs to be studied more here.

My suggestion is simple. Let’s jam cell phone reception for the protection of our guards, our families, and to block criminal activity operating from inside our prisons. We know how to do this. We have the technology to do this. This body needs to address it in law and make sure it gets resolved in the days ahead. I look forward to passing that and not doing one more study to delay action on it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MOORE

Ms. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. President. I think it is fair to say that most Americans didn’t wake up this morning thinking about the role the Federal Reserve plays in our lives. The people we represent are focused on putting in an honest day’s work, taking care of their families, and gradually climbing the economic ladder. The Fed is focused on making sure our economy is giving them every opportunity to do just that—or at least it is supposed to be.

The Fed’s mission is to keep employment high, prices stable, and our financial system in good working order. When we succeed, we see the full potential of the American economy, the greatest force for prosperity the world has ever known. When it fails, ordinary people can wind up losing their jobs, their homes, and their savings.

Even though most Americans don’t know their names or think about their work, the seven members of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, nominated by the President and confirmed by Congress, have an important job to do.

The Fed is not supposed to be a place for politicians. It is not a job for politicians. It is a job for the most accomplished and thoughtful economists and financial experts we have—men and women who truly understand not just what makes the economy work on paper, but what makes our economy truly work for working Americans.

Through his choice of nominees for this position, a President demonstrates whether he understands the importance of a functioning financial system and respects the American people, who rely on the Fed to keep our economy on solid footing. Through our consideration of those nominees, we here in the Senate do the same—which brings me to the President’s latest choice for this position: Stephen Moore.

Let’s be clear about who Mr. Moore is. He is not a professor of economics at a prestigious university. He has won no prizes for his academic scholarship. In fact, he has never authored or coauthored a single peer-reviewed article or journal ever.

While some have suggested it might not be a bad thing to have a range of experience on the Federal Reserve Board, it is unclear what experience Mr. Moore has that would contribute a useful perspective. He has never run a bank or a business of any size. In fact, he has barely any experience in the private sector at all. No, Stephen Moore is a political operative and a pundit. There is nothing wrong with that, per se, but the fact is that President Trump picked him not because of anything he has accomplished in business or in the study of economics but rather because of what Mr. Moore believes—or at least what he goes on TV and says he believes.

As we try to decide who Mr. Moore is and whether he is, in fact, suitable for a job that has never before been held by someone with his total lack of qualifications, we might start by taking a look at the opinions he has shared over the decades he spent doing little else but sharing his opinions. For example, nearly all economists agree that empowering women to participate fully and equally in the workforce would result in huge gains for our economy. In fact, earlier this decade, a McKinsey analysis found that the increased number of women entering the workforce between 1970 and 2011 accounted for roughly a quarter of the gains in GDP achieved over that time period.

This McKinsey study noted:

Still, the full potential of women in the workforce has yet to be tapped. As the U.S. struggles to sustain historic GDP growth rates, it is critically important to bring more women into the workforce and fully deploy high-skill women to drive productivity improvement.

That is why so many of us in Washington are focused on empowering women to find jobs and build careers, to balance the responsibilities of work and family, and to participate in the economy on equal footing with men.

Mr. Moore apparently disagrees. He believes and has written that “the male needs to be breadwinner of the family.” When it comes to pay discrimination, Mr. Moore was unconcerned with the fact that, on average, women were earning 77 cents on the dollar compared to men. In fact, just 5 years ago, he warned that raising women’s pay could be disruptive to family stability.

Perhaps Mr. Moore should read the McKinsey study. After all, it was produced for the Wall Street Journal, where he is a frequent commentator and used to serve on the editorial board, so I am sure he could get a copy of it. But the more Mr. Moore’s public statements are examined, the more it becomes clear that his views on women and the economy might have less to do with the economy and more to do with winning media headlines.

Here is just one example. Mr. Moore apparently believes that efforts to address sexual harassment and assault on college campuses are quote “draining all the fun out of college life.” He goes on to elaborate.

Colleges are places for rabblerousing. For men to lose their boyhood innocence. To do stupid things. To stay out way too late drinking. To chase skipping. To chase skipping. To chase skipping. To chase skipping. To chase skipping.

Here’s the sort of thing a college freshman writes on his Facebook page that comes back to haunt him in his first round of job interviews. Mr. Moore chose to put those words in a newspaper column, underneath his name, at the age of 40.

Then again, anyone familiar with his record wouldn’t be surprised to learn that Mr. Moore doesn’t take sexual assault seriously. CNN recently uncovered that years earlier he had mocked the Violence Against Women Act as “objectionable pork” and referred to a program designed to promote gender equality in education as “vile.”

In addition to chasing skirts” on college campuses, Mr. Moore seems to believe that women’s equality is ruining another favorite pastime—sports.

He wrote that “co-ed sports is doing irreparable harm to the psyche of American little boys,” and he mused about urging his young son to assault a kindergarten named Kate Lynn just because she was a better soccer player.

In another bit of sports commentary, Mr. Moore wrote:

Here’s the rule change I propose: No more women refs, no more women announcers, no women beer vendors, no women anything. There is, of course, an exception to this rule. Women are permitted to participate, if and only if, they look like Bonnie Bernstein. The fact that Bonnie knows nothing about basketball is entirely irrelevant.

At the time Mr. Moore wrote this, Bonnie Bernstein was a prominent journalist and ESPN analyst, and he was a 42-year-old married man. But that didn’t stop him from further underscoring his creepy affections for Ms. Bernstein, adding that she should be required to wear a halter top on the air. “If Bonnie were President of the United States,” wrote this adult male in a national publication about a complete stranger, “she’d be a Babe-raham Lincoln.” Perhaps that is why Mr. Moore has also said that powerful men should be required to chase skipping women, because they might wind up being accused of sexual harassment. Maybe it is a rule he should follow. Frankly, if I
were Bonnie Bernstein or any woman who read that column, I wouldn’t want to be alone in a room with him.

Mr. Moore has tried to explain away some of these misogynistic comments as jokes, so maybe he just has a profound infinitesimal sense of humor. But he didn’t sound like he was joking when he called for the elimination of child labor laws, adding, “I want people starting to work at 11, 12.”

He didn’t sound like he was joking when he claimed falsely that the Civil War was not fought over slavery or when he claimed bizarrely that liberals were to blame for the rise of White supremacist violence that resulted in the death of a young woman in Charlottesville. He didn’t sound like he was joking when he attacked equal rights for LGBTQ Americans, arguing that rulings in favor of marriage equality were “overturning the will of the people.”

He didn’t sound like he was joking when he warned that the unemployment insurance that millions of Americans rely on to make ends meet during hard times as “paid vacation” or when he warned that guaranteeing paid sick leave for workers was “very dangerous.”

And if he was joking when he referred to most of the Midwest, including great cities like Cincinnati and Cleveland, as “armpits of America,” well, I know my friend Senator Brown didn’t think that was funny either.

Still, Mr. Moore tried to change the subject from his long history of offensive remarks, and he went on FOX News last week and said: “I’m no angel.” No kidding.

Indeed, the best possible argument in Mr. Moore’s favor is that it is possible to be a jerk about women, LGBTIQ Americans, low-income workers, and anyone who has ever lived anywhere other than New York or Chicago or Georgia who did not vote for you. Perhaps that is the kind of person and be a good economist, except, of course, that Mr. Moore isn’t even a good economist.

For example, he opposed the farm bill that provides the lifeblood to rural communities that I represent in Minnesota, and he believes we should get rid of safety net programs that help those rural communities. Well, I think most people living in rural America would rather withstand Mr. Moore’s insinuation of the consequences of his agenda. The truth is, we need policymakers who are committed to creating more economic opportunities in rural communities by expanding access to credit, investing in education and infrastructure, and protecting the agricultural safety net. I guess Mr. Moore doesn’t care what goes on in those parts of the country that he calls the armpits of America.

Here is another example. Mr. Moore has repeatedly called for a return to the gold standard, a position described by a Washington Post reporter as “a lot like playing Russian roulette with the economy.” Now, an economist who believes in a return to the gold standard is like a zoologist who believes in the existence of unicorns. It is a plainly ludicrous opinion for a serious expert to hold, which is probably why Mr. Moore has tried to deny that he has ever said this, claiming that he has “never been a gold standard guy.” But he has—consistently and forcefully.

In 2009, he told a Washington Policy Center reception: “We need to go back to the gold standard.” In 2010, he went on an audience at the Fort Henry Club in West Virginia: “We have to reestablish some kind of gold standard.” In 2011, he went on the FOX Business channel and said: “I do think we have to peg the dollar to gold.” In 2012, he was asked on CNBC whether he wanted to go back to the gold standard, and he answered: “Yes, I do.”

In 2015, he told a tea party crowd: “We have got to get rid of the Federal Reserve and move towards a gold standard.”

Mr. Moore apparently doesn’t understand that things have changed a lot since the 1930s, not just when it comes to the role of women but when it comes to the ubiquity of video cameras. He is on tape again and again giving voice to this crazy idea that he claims he has never supported. Indeed, his position on the gold standard isn’t just an example of being badly out of step.

Mr. Moore is out of step with mainstream economics, and it is a pretty good illustration of his difficult relationship with the facts. A few years ago, he was banned from the opinion pages of the Kansas City Star after he wrote a column claiming that low-tax States were performing better than high-tax States. He wrote:

No-income-tax Texas gained 1 million jobs over the last five years; California, with its 13 percent tax rate, managed to lose jobs. Oops. Florida gained hundreds of thousands of jobs while New York lost jobs. Oops.

It turns out that Mr. Moore got his facts wrong—never a good thing when you are in the economics business. Instead of adding a million jobs, Texas had actually added less than half that number. Florida hadn’t gained hundreds of thousands of jobs; it had lost nearly half a million jobs. New York hadn’t lost 57,000 jobs. “Oops” is right.

The truth is Mr. Moore is wrong a lot. He predicted that the Affordable Care Act would kill jobs. It didn’t. He claimed that President Trump’s tax giveaway to corporations would pay for itself. It didn’t. He argued that the Fed should return to a rule tying monetary policy to commodity prices. No such rule ever existed. I could go on and on, and it would take me hours to even get to the kind of scandals that have discredited the Securities and Exchange Commission. It would take the $75,000 in unpaid taxes it was discovered he owed after filing what the IRS called a “fraudulent” tax return, or the time his political committee agreed to pay $350,000 in fines for campaign finance violations, or the time he was held in contempt of court for failing to pay $300,000 in alimony and child support after his divorce, or even the time he bought his mistress a T-shirt with the words “Doing It,” which is pretty amazing coming from a guy who, again, thinks paying women a fair wage is, in his words, “disruptive to family stability.”

Mr. Moore has tried to explain away the kind of scandals that have discredited his energy industry donors. He wants a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau where his Wall Street friends get a free pass to rip consumers off. Now President Trump wants a Federal Reserve that, instead of fighting for the economic interest of the American people, will act in the political interest of the President. That is the only explanation for Mr. Moore’s nomination.

You see, Mr. Moore isn’t really an economist at all. He is a political operative. When he is wrong—and he is wrong a lot—it isn’t because he made a mistake. Mr. Moore has made a career out of being wrong on purpose.

Catherine Rampell wrote in the Washington Post:

Mr. Moore has repeatedly, and falsely, claimed that the country is experiencing “deflation.” That means prices are falling, which they are not. But claiming this gives him cover to argue that the Fed should fight the stimulant into the economy just as Trump begins running for reelection.

Conversely, when we were in the depths of the financial crisis and prices were falling, Moore had us on the brink of Weimar-style hyperinflation. He therefore called on the Fed to tighten monetary policy, which would have crippled the economy—and, just coincidentally, maimed President Barack Obama.

If confirmed, Mr. Moore would not see his job as fulfilling the Fed’s dual mandate of stabilizing prices and raising employment. He would not see his job as providing effective oversight to the financial system. He would see his job as getting President Trump reelected, no matter what it meant for American workers, investors, and businesses.

That is why President Trump picked him.

Two years ago, President Trump allowed his advisers to talk him into nominating Jerome Powell, an accomplished financial expert with long experience in both public service and in the private sector, as Chair of the Federal Reserve Board. Now, Chair Powell and I certainly don’t agree on every aspect of monetary policy, but we do agree that the Fed should be focused on the
productivity of our economy and the protection of American workers, not partisan political goals. In a recent hearing, for example, I discussed with Chair Powell the specific challenges of the labor market in rural areas, and he came prepared with a serious and thoughtful economic analysis that showed his keen understanding of these issues.

Chair Powell has resisted pressure from the White House to intervene in the economy to produce results in line with President Trump's political agenda, and that has infuriated President Trump, who has attacked Chair Powell on Twitter and harangued him in meetings. The President feels he made a mistake in choosing an actual, serious, sober-minded, thoughtful public servant, and he is set on not making that same mistake again.

Either President Trump doesn't understand what the Fed is for or he is hoping that we don't. And whether it is Mr. Moore or someone with the good sense to keep his misgivings to himself, we on the Senate Banking Committee should be prepared to give special scrutiny to any Federal Reserve nomination that this President sends to us because, while these issues might not be the flashiest, they are of critical importance to the people whom we represent.

Indeed, when I joined the Senate Banking Committee earlier this year, few Minnesotans took notice, but I see it as a chance to make an enormous impact on people's lives by opening up new opportunities for people to bet on themselves and to build the lives they want. Our work can help to open up access to credit for families and small businesses and underserved communities, especially communities of color.

As a Senator from Minnesota who is proud to represent our States' Tribal communities, I know how badly they have been neglected by our financial system, and I am determined to rectify that injustice. As a Senator who is proud to represent so many rural communities, I am excited to use my place on this committee to expand opportunities for economic development in parts of our State that too often go overlooked.

Our work can make sure that our financial system remains on solid footing, not just so that our economy can continue to grow but so that more people can claim their stake in it—buying homes, starting businesses, and building wealth they can pass down to their next generation. Our work can help to hold Wall Street greed in check and to make sure that people don't get ripped off when applying for student loans and mortgages and so that we never again see a repeat of the great recession that wiped out so many jobs and pensions.

Yes, our work can help to protect the integrity of the Federal Reserve from people who see it as a tool for partisan politics, as a laboratory for radical ideas, or as a playground for extremist ideologues who love to spout off with-out knowing their facts—people like Stephen Moore.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this nomination. I also urge us all not to let the important work of the Federal Reserve slip out of the public eye once this nominee is defeated. Instead, let's make this a moment to highlight the important issues that the Fed deals with every day and ensure that it is led by men and women who understand its mission and appreciate the impact it has on the people that we all serve.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Barker nomination?

Mr. Peters. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the rule.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessary absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 85 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander
Barrasso
Blackburn
Blount
Boozman
Burr
Capito
Collins
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Fischer
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hawley
Isakson
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
McConnell
McCracken
McSally
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Romney
Round
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sinema
Smith
Toomey
Trum
Tillis
Tillis
Toyeg
Vickers
Wicker
Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Feldstein
Gillibrand
Harris
Holly
The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to Rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 86 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander
Barrasso
Blackburn
Blount
Boozman
Burr
Capito
Collins
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Fischer
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hawley
Isakson
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
McConnell
McCracken
McSally
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Romney
Round
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sinema
Smith
Toomey
Trum
Tillis
Tillis
Toyeg
Vickers
Wicker
Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Feldstein
Gillibrand
Harris
Holly
The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, and the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

RAPE KIT BACKLOG

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, from time to time, our country has listened with empathy and heartbreak as survivors of various forms of sexual abuse come forward, men and women alike, who have bravely shared their stories, reviving a national conversation about sexual abuse and inviting others to share their stories after years or even decades of silence. We know that these cases aren’t limited to any class, place, age, gender, or circumstance. We have heard from major public figures and close friends alike, highlighting an issue that has for too long hidden in the shadows.

Some of the most disturbing allegations are those that take place against our children in school. Last month, Senator HASSAN and I introduced the Jenna Quinn Law, which would help educators and caregivers identify and prevent child sexual abuse. It literally teaches people how to recognize the symptoms, what children are saying, when they are not vocalizing their plight, by the way they act. It would allow the use of grant funds for specialized training to ensure that teachers and school personnel are prepared to recognize and report child sexual abuse.

This legislation is named after a brave Texan, a child abuse survivor herself, and has been modeled after successful State legislation. It is an important step in our efforts to stop sexual abuse, and I hope we can take these reforms, which have been adopted now by more than half the States, and make them nationwide.

Of course, protecting students from sexual abuse doesn’t end after high school, as we know. In recent years, our country has followed high-profile cases involving students even at our colleges and universities. We all remember 2011, when the now notorious Penn State football coach, Jerry Sandusky, was arrested and charged with 52 counts of sexual abuse of boys. What happened next was a combination of support for the survivors and disgust with those who knew about the allegations but did nothing. Employees, ranging from a graduate assistant to the university president himself, were aware of the allegations but remained silent.

Then there is Larry Nassar, an employee at Michigan State University and a former USA Gymnastics national team doctor. He was accused of molesting hundreds of young athletes under his care, and more than 250 women shared their testimony at his sentencing last year. Despite numerous complaints and admissions of guilt, some dating back to the 1990s, university officials kept quiet. Law enforcement was never informed, and his disgusting abuse was allowed to continue unreported for years.

Sadly, these are not the only instances of university officials turning to avert their gaze from sexual misconduct. It has happened at other major universities across the country, including one in Texas. In each of these cases, university leaders did not take action against the abusers despite the fact that official title IX or external investigations had been conducted. Some of them said: “We just simply didn’t read the results of the report.”

These stories of abuse are difficult to hear, but, to positive changes by highlighting the ineffective and sometimes nonexistent policies to handle these types of abuse.

That is why last month, along with my colleagues from Michigan, Senator PETERS and Senator STABENOW, I introduced the Accountability of Leaders in Education to Report Title IX Investigations Act, or ALERT Act for short. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure greater accountability by requiring colleges and universities to submit an annual certification to the Secretary of Education, to include the following:

First, it would affirm that the university president and the board members have reviewed all title IX and Clery Act sexual offense reports of an employee involving sexual misconduct. This would compel administrators to take this matter more seriously and thoroughly examine all the allegations.

Secondly, it would require that the university president or board members had not interfered with or inappropriately tried to influence an ongoing investigation.

In any educational institution, especially those that receive taxpayer funds, administrators should be held accountable for their actions and place the health and well-being of their students above all else.

The public conversation regarding these abuses has encouraged more victims to confront their abusers and pursue justice.

Throughout my career, dating back to my time as Texas attorney general, it has been my privilege to work with advocates for victims’ rights and to help provide them with the resources they need in order to heal and recover. But what if we could do more to prevent people from becoming victims in the first place? What if we could improve accountability on college campuses related to reports of sexual assault on their employees? Well, it seems to me the answer is obvious. While there is nothing we can do to turn back the hands of time and prevent these young men and women from being taken advantage of in the first place, we can take action to hold universities accountable for sexual misconduct that they already know about and stop abusers from continuing to harm students.

I hope this bill can work its way quickly through the regular order through Congress, the House and the Senate, and make its way to the President’s desk so we can begin to improve accountability on college campuses all across our country.

While we continue our work to prevent sexual abuse in all its forms, there is more we need to do to support victims. To tomorrow, the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote on what I have no doubt will be a major bipartisan achievement for the 116th Congress.

We see many pieces of legislation that divide Members of the Senate, and sadly, those are often the ones that get the most attention. But the Debbie Smith Act is the type of bill we should be talking about and celebrating. The namesake of this legislation is an incredibly courageous woman whom I have had the pleasure of working with over the years.

Debbie Smith is an ardent advocate for eliminating the rape kit backlog and expanding the DNA database to provide victims with answers and peace of mind. Sadly, her personal advocacy was borne from experience. In 1989, Debbie was home doing laundry when a stranger broke into her house. He blindfolded her, abducted her, and took her to a remote location where he robbed and repeatedly raped her. Debbie reported the crime to the police and went to the emergency room for a forensic exam, but because of the nationwide backlog, there were no immediate answers. Her rape kit was not even tested right away, as it should have been.

Although exact numbers are difficult to estimate, experts believe that as many as 400,000 rape kits remain untested in the United States, and probably don’t know with any precision. Each one of them represents a story of a sexual assault victim and holds the key to identifying and apprehending a vile criminal. Like every other victim whose DNA evidence sat or still sits on a shelf, Debbie simply had to wait. In her case, it took 6½ years before she finally got the answers she had been looking for when a cold hit revealed the identity of her rapist.

Debbie knows the fear and uncertainty that comes upon victims just by not knowing the answers to who did it and how we make sure justice is served. She made it her mission to change this. She has become a trusted voice for sexual assault victims all across this country and, of course, works the Halls of Congress on a bipartisan basis to make sure we don’t lose sight of this important goal, which is to eliminate the rape kit backlog.

The Debbie Smith Act was signed into law in 2004 and provides local and
State crime labs with resources they need to end the backlog of unsolved crimes. So far, more than $1 billion has been provided to forensic labs because of this law and has led to some pretty incredible results.

One thing is important that the Federal Government assumes part of this responsibility is because many jurisdictions—small police departments, rural counties—simply don’t have the tax base, don’t have the money, and don’t have the expertise to be able to solve this problem of untested rape kits. Since 2005, thanks to Debbie Smith, more than 800,000 DNA cases have been processed because of the Debbie Smith Act, accounting for 49 percent of all forensic profiles in the FBI’s DNA database.

Though the primary goal is to reduce the rape kit backlog and identify their assailants, processing this DNA evidence can assist investigations for non-violent crimes as well. Similar to criminal fingerprint databases, this DNA evidence can help convict people who commit other crimes.

The Debbie Smith Act of 2019 will reauthorize this important funding that supports testing of these rape kits so we can eliminate the backlog and ensure it will not grow again in the future. This law also authorizes important training for law enforcement, correctional personnel, forensic nurses, and other professionals who assist victims of sexual assault.

So I am grateful to Debbie for her courage and the courage of countless other survivors who have shared their stories publicly—it can’t be easy—and who continue to advocate for reforms to eliminate the backlog. Two other inspiring survivors from Texas, Lavinia Masters and Carol Bart, have also been strong advocates in my State and at the Federal level. It has been my privilege to know them and work with them on this issue.

This legislation is undoubtedly stronger because of the input of these and other brave survivors who are champions for victims all across the country. I admire these women who have given their voice to the voiceless and continue to fight for these reforms.

I thank Chairman GRAHAM and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN of the Senate Judiciary Committee for quickly moving this important legislation through the committee, and I hope we will soon be able to vote for it on the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, during the last week I was home in Wyo-

ming, traveling the State, visiting with people, talking to constituents, listening to what they had to say. I had the chance to attend a couple of health fairs in Rawlins, WY, and Mountain View, WY. The health fair is a gathering of the community. It is based on prevention and early detection of problems as ways to help lower the cost of care. For many years, I was the medical director of the Wyoming Health Fairs bringing low-cost health screening to people of Wyoming. At the fair, people come from the heart association, diabetes association, the American Cancer Society. People learn information about diseases, how they work, and how they affect their bodies. It can aid in early detection of problems. People can get their blood drawn and visit with healthcare providers from the community to go over blood results. All of this is aimed at prevention, early detection, and early treatment.

It is interesting the same time Democrats running for President have been traveling the country talking about healthcare as well, and specifically Senator BERNIE SANDERS has talked about ‘BernieCare’—Medicare for All. To me, Medicare for All is going to drive up costs for Americans in terms of taxes, and it is also going to take away the kind of choice people look for when I talk with them at Wyoming health fairs.

I come to you today to talk on the floor about the real problems I see with this so-called Medicare for All, and I come to it as a doctor who has practiced medicine in Wyoming for 25 years, taking care of patients for decades. When I go to health fairs, more people refer to me as Dr. BARRASSO rather than Senator BARRASSO.

I also want to talk as the husband of a breast cancer survivor. My wife, Bobbi, has had chemotherapy and radiation twice, and is now disease-free for 15 years, but I know how critically important it is as a doctor as well as a husband to make sure that people with preexisting conditions are protected.

I also speak as the son of a 96-year-old mother, and she is a motivating force in our lives. She is a constant reminder to me that we must do everything we can to care for our seniors. So as I have been listening to the Presidential candidates about this Medicare for All proposal, whether it is Senators HARRIS, WARREN, GILLIBRAND, or BOOKER, all of them back what Senator SANDERS has been proposing. I am just not sure most Americans understand what Medicare for All means and what it would mean for them personally. Maybe some of the Presidential candidates don’t even want people to know what it means.

Senator SANDERS has claimed that Medicare for All is about, “a struggle for the soul of who we are as a nation.” Let’s be clear. Americans are facing a critical choice. It is a choice between a big, government-run healthcare system and a system that gives Americans access to quality, affordable care that they can choose that is right for them and their families. That, to me, is the choice we are facing.

Medicare for All essentially means a complete government takeover of all healthcare in this country. Central planners in Washington, DC, would then be in control of the healthcare for all of us.

Medicare for All would enroll every American in a government-run healthcare system. It will take away America’s healthcare choices. Senator HARRIS talks about, perhaps, a supplemental plan, but the legislation I have read that has been introduced is crystal clear—Medicare for All outlaws private health insurance plans. The only exception, Senator SANDERS says, is some limited insurance for cosmetic surgery—he says procedures like nose jobs.

With about 180 million Americans getting insurance through work, currently covered through their employers, people who get insurance through work like the insurance they have. All of them will lose their coverage under what is proposed Medicare for All legislation. All of them will be forced onto this new government program—every one of them. Never mind that 71 percent of Americans covered through their employer actually say they have their own private insurance, a single-payer Medicare for All proposal says, basically, if you like your current healthcare plan, you cannot keep it. The government will take it away and make it illegal.

Seniors are going to suffer, too, and, actually, I think seniors may end up suffering the most. I am talking about people who are already on Medicare because this legislation threatens the 60 million Americans who currently get their healthcare as part of Medicare. They get their healthcare today through Medicare. Medicare is already expected to run out of money by 2026. It was confirmed by last month’s trustee report, but the Democrats’ proposal will even outlaw Medicare Advantage, a program that 22 million Americans currently use for their healthcare. It is called Medicare Advantage because there are advantages to being on this program in terms of preventive care and coordinated care. There is a reason people sign up for Medicare Advantage. All 22 million would lose that as well under the Democrats’ Medicare for All plan.

Healthcare programs benefiting military families and children will also be eliminated. Democrats plan to abolish servicemembers’ TRICARE and the Children’s Health Insurance Plan. All of that goes away under what the Democrats’ radical proposal is talking about.

For decades, perhaps the greatest deception of Medicare for All is the suggestion that government-run care would be free. Let me say to the American people: Do not
be deceived. Do not be deceived. Americans will pay a very high price. Medicare for All has been estimated at a 10-year pricetag of $32 trillion. There is only one way to even try to pay for this massive plan and that is to dramatically raise everyone’s income taxes to the point where they may need to pay double. That is what is being proposed.

So the result will be less freedom, lower quality of care, and longer lines as people wait to get to a doctor, because Washington will be controlling the doctor-patient medical decisions—and, mark my words, Washington will ration care. Rationing means delays and delay means denial of care. Government-run healthcare is notorious for producing long lines, long waiting periods, delay in care—even urgently needed care.

The government-run system has failed and is failing where they tried to put it in place in Vermont, in Senator Sanders’ home State. They started it and ended up having to eliminate it. They couldn’t afford it. It wasn’t working. It was too complicated. That is in one State.

We also have the situation of what is going on both in England and Canada right now in terms of costs and limits of care, the denial of treatment, the delay in treatment.

I think people watching may have seen the stories as a result of what is happening in England, where elderly patients are going blind in Britain right now. Why would they be going blind? You don’t abandon government rationing catact surgery. People can Google “going blind in Britain.” It is the British healthcare system that is causing it because of the rationing of care. So Democrats are promoting this Medicare-for-All plan, essentially saying that it is saying that ObamaCare needs to be repealed and replaced because it has failed the American people. The solution they are offering is not one that I think would make things better, but it is one that I think would make things worse.

Republicans, at the same time, are working for meaningful, workable solutions that lower the costs of prescription drugs, solutions that increase healthcare choice and transparency, and solutions that expand all Americans’ access to affordable care. We want to make sure patients can get the care they need from the doctor they choose at a lower cost.

So instead of proposing higher taxes, which is what the Democrats are proposing, instead of proposing healthcare rationing, which will come with Medicare for All, Democrats need to begin working with Republicans to improve healthcare for all Americans, and they should start by rejecting BernieCare.

Thank you.

The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of my long-time chief of staff, staff director of the Democratic staff on the Senate Banking Committee, former staff director for Republicans on the HELP Committee, and my good friend Mark Powden.

Mark is the model of a public servant and of a Senate staffer. He spent decades serving in these Halls, first for Senator Jeffords, and then, in 2007, he joined my office, becoming my chief of staff less than 2 years later.

I was reminded of that by a headline last week in my office. I still had a lot to learn. There were few better teachers in this institution and this city than Mark Powden. He helped steer our office in its early days, setting up a well-oiled machine, I would like to think, that would serve Ohioans at home and advocate for them in Washington. Under Mark’s leadership, we delivered results for the 12 million people in Ohio.

When the country wanted to write off the American auto industry, we said no. We were not going to abandon this industry and millions of American workers—literally hundreds of thousands in Ohio. Mark was passionate about making sure we got the best deal possible for Ohio workers. It wasn’t just auto workers.

Mark took over the job as chief of staff in my office during the depths of the recession around the time President Obama took office, after the economy was tanking with a loss of 800,000 jobs a month to end the Bush administration. Ohio had lost 423,000 jobs over a 2-year period—nearly 8 percent of the jobs in the State. Under Mark’s leadership, we worked to create the Hardest Hit Fund, which targeted resources to communities in places like Ohio that had been devastated by the financial crisis. Mark and so many others have heard me say that the ZIP Code where my wife Connie and I live in Cleveland, OH—ZIP Code 44105—at that point in 2007, there were more foreclosures in that ZIP Code than in any other ZIP Code in the United States of America.

Mark always made sure that investing in Ohio was a priority. We helped secure $100 million to expand cancer research and treatment at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and James Cancer Hospital.

Through all of these accomplishments, Mark remained true to his home State or Kent State University, that he grew up. His first major job in Washington was with a Republican in those days, a Senator from Vermont. He tried to harden always to bring Vermont’s bucolic values to the Nation’s Capital, and he maintained the utmost respect for the institution of the Senate.

He had an incredible wealth of knowledge on the history of this place and on legislative procedure and tradition, and he passed it on to other staff— from my new chief of staff, when Mark moved over to the Senate Banking Committee, to the LCs new to the Senate, hoping to learn. We will miss all that about Mark Powden.

I will miss Mark’s counsel. I will miss his hard work. I will miss his sense of humor. I will miss his modesty. I will particularly miss his masterful jokes that he tells so well after growing up in rural Vermont. It is not surprising that Mark would not want to be here today as I assume he just doesn’t want to show up to be honored. But after decades in public service, he has earned a long retirement with his wife Wendy; his two sons, Joseph and Russell; and his entire family. Mark, thank you for that your hard work for me, thank you for what you did for our State, and thank you for what you do for our country.

I would add to this that one of the people Mark helped to teach is with me on the floor today. She is about to join a Presidential campaign. Her name is Hannah Fine. I want to recognize her service. This is the first time, I believe, she has been on the Senate floor for a moment like this. So, Hannah, thank you.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MOORE

Mr. President, this weekend, the President’s pick for the Federal Reserve, Stephen Moore, said that we should focus a little less on all of his controversial and outlandish articles, the comments he made about women in print and on the air, the comments he made about places like Cincinnati and Cleveland, the attacks he has made on middle America, on working families. He said, Forget about that. Let’s talk about my economic record.

Well, Mr. Moore should be careful what he wishes for. His economic record is dangerous. It is out of touch. It is a big part of the reason we have suffered so many of the economic problems we have had in the last decade. Even conservative economists have criticized him.

He has claimed over and over again that the country is experiencing deflation. In other words, he thinks prices are falling. I don’t know where he gets these ideas. I don’t have any constituents who complain to me about prices falling—about deflation—but Mr. Moore seems to see things that aren’t really there.

Tell someone who is paying college tuition, whether it is at Sinclair Community College or whether it is at Ohio State or Kent State University, that the prices are going down. Tell it to someone with diabetes trying to afford insulin. Tell somebody in Columbus, OH, who is trying to pay the rent that prices are falling. It is absurd. He makes economic statements like that with so little basis in fact.

He has been a conspiracy theorist. He thinks government statistics on the economy can’t be trusted. Maybe that is where he got the idea that the cost of living is going down. He wants to return to the gold standard. He said on CNBC this morning that instead of talking about wage growth for women, the problem actually has been the steady decline in male earnings. I don’t disagree the problem has been stagnant.
wages for men, but I also can’t believe he would say the problem is not women’s wages when we know that—I have spent a lot of time on this floor talking about the dignity of work. I understand that so many Americans have seen corporate profits go up; we have seen executive compensation explode upward; we have seen workers working harder and being more productive; and we have seen wages remain flat. The issue is that wages are flat, in large part, because this President has followed the advice of Stephen Moore and continued to cut taxes on rich people, underinvest in infrastructure, underinvest in working families, underinvest in public health, and underinvest in public education. So to put it on women and say that the problem has actually been the steady decline in male earnings—we shouldn’t even be talking about women’s wages—just makes no sense.

He doesn’t seem to understand that, fundamentally, as challenged as so many working families are with stagnant wages and with lack of opportunity, if you are a woman in this country, if you are someone of color, the challenges are even greater. She should know that. Every economic statistic shows that. Sentient human beings walking down the street and listening should know that. But for some reason, this man who wants to be a Governor of the Federal Reserve thinks otherwise.

He wants the entire country—and this is probably even more serious. He wants the entire country to look like Kansas. He was the mastermind—or one of the masterminds—behind Governor Brownback’s move in Kansas to basically eliminate tax liability for a whole group of mostly prosperous people, to cut taxes overall on the rich, and then go after public education and cut public education. It was so extreme that once it was enacted in a very Republican State by a Republican Governor, it was the Republicans in the legislature who unenacted it. They reversed most of the things he did and overrode this far-right Republican Governor on the Federal Reserve.

I am happy to recognize small businesses. There is no one—no one—more virtuous, more productive, more hardworking, more dedicated to the dignity of work. I understand that so many Americans have seen corporate profits go up; we have seen executive compensation explode upward; we have seen workers working harder and being more productive; and we have seen wages remain flat. The issue is that wages are flat, in large part, because this President has followed the advice of Stephen Moore and continued to cut taxes on the rich. You don’t grow the economy by giving more money to the super-wealthy, who will invest it in Swiss bank accounts on the middle-class, and you give the tax breaks to the middle class like our earned-income tax credit bill. If you focus tax breaks on the middle class, you will grow the economy because you are putting money in the pocket of somebody making $20- or $30- or $50- or $100,000 a year. They are going to spend it. They are not going to put it in a Swiss bank account. When you give tax cuts to some of the people in the Trump Cabinet, they are going to put more in Swiss bank accounts. They are not going to spend it. They are not going to invest it. They are not going to make any difference in our economy.

So I ask my colleagues to vote no on Stephen Moore not only because there is so much about him and what he has done and what he has written, but mostly for what he would advocate as a member of the Federal Reserve.

If you love your country, you will fight for the American people and you respect and honor work. There is nothing about Mr. Moore’s record that would suggest he would do that. We need someone on the Federal Reserve who actually understands that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to first give approximately a 1-minute speech and then speak for a longer time on another subject.

I am happy to recognize small businesses. We should recognize them all across our country. We do that by celebrating National Small Business Week.

In my State of Iowa, 99 percent of all businesses are small businesses. Also, almost half of Iowa’s employees are employed by small businesses.

Government regulations have a disproportionate impact on small businesses, often costing them 20 percent more than the average of all businesses. So we need to remember that small businesses are the main source of America’s innovations and economic strength. We should all be proud of and support these men and women who work hard to keep our communities vibrant.

This week is devoted to honoring small business.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, a few weeks ago, our tax filing season came to an end. This filing season was a very important milestone as it was the first tax filing season under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed by the President before Christmas 2017.

Congressional Democrats sought to turn the tax filing season into an indictment of the tax reform through a campaign of misinformation and a campaign of half-truths. They were obsessed with finding anything—just anything—they could hang their hat on to declare that the tax filing system was a failure.

I will give you a case in point—maybe, several cases.

They attempted to use early and incomplete tax reform data to mislead and scare the public into believing that since the average tax refunds went down, taxpayers’ taxes actually went up. Of course, such a claim is just simple hogwash. The size of the tax refund tells you absolutely nothing about a taxpayer’s overall tax liability. The tax refund, as most people ought to know, tells you how much a taxpayer overpaid the Federal Government throughout the year.

None other than the Washington Post Fact Checker called out Democratic tax refund falsehoods as, in their words, “nonsensical and misleading.” The Democrat talking points earned the Democrats a whopping four Pinocchios from that Fact Checker. Yet the Democrats wouldn’t let facts or reason get in their way, because if it did, it wouldn’t be a political win for them. The Democrats continued to misleading and scare the public for several more weeks. And why not? The truth might hurt.

Then, more complete tax refund data came in showing that the average tax refunds were actually in line with the previous years. Much to the Democrats’ chagrin, their favorite talking point was, once and for all, exposed for the nonsense that it is.

The fact is that this filing season was a resounding success for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed before Christmas 2017. The filing season happened to run remarkably smoothly. This became even clearer the further into the filing season we went and a more complete picture emerged. On four points, all the IRS computer systems functioned as planned, refunds were processed in a timely manner, the total number of refunds sent to taxpayers are up—and the average refund amount differed by only $55 compared to the previous tax year—and, lastly and most importantly, millions of middle-income taxpayers saw less of their hard-earned money go to Washington. And, of course, that was the purpose of the tax bill in the first place.

Now, unfortunately, the Democrats remain yet today as determined as ever
to take down tax reform through a campaign of misinformation. For years, they misled the American people and promoted a narrative full of distortions and misrepresentations about what the law does and doesn’t do. Even when the bill was little read and had a 1-page outline, Democrats began their campaign depicting tax reform as a giveaway to the wealthy and a tax hike for the middle class. As the committee discussed new ideas and as the committee drafted a final bill, it actually evolved. It was never like somebody 6 months before said: This is what we are going to pass, and we are going to pass it just this way.

No, it evolved considerably from the initial framework.

Yet the Democrat talking points that began when we first started talking about the bill never changed and, still today, haven’t changed. Analysis after analysis, ranging from the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation to even the very liberal Tax Policy Center, showed that tax reform would cut taxes on average for every income group. These analyses showed that to the extent there were tax increases, they were largely concentrated on the wealthy—in other words, a more regressive tax law.

That is right. The taxpayers Democrats claimed were the big winners in the tax reform are actually the ones most likely to see a tax hike. Moreover, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation analysis, the largest percentage of tax cuts are concentrated among low- and middle-income groups. For emphasis, the Joint Committee on Taxation analysis also shows that tax reform made the Tax Code more progressive. I have said it twice now. I say it a lot of times. I am trying to get somebody to understand that this is what experts say, not what this Senator says.

Millionaires now shoulder an even larger share of the total tax burden than under prior law. As you can expect, Democrats are determined not to let these facts get in their political way. Since the beginning, they have argued that up was down and that tax cuts were tax increases, and have even suggested the bill’s passage was a sign of “Armageddon.”

Unfortunately, their constant drum beat, coupled with little pushback from the mainstream media, has worked to mislead too many taxpayers. However, there are signs that some in the media are starting to see that the Democrats’ talking points are the nonsense that those talking points really are. You might not believe this, but a few weeks ago the New York Times, of all papers, published an article highlighting how Democratic talking points and far too many Americans’ perceptions of the law don’t match reality.

I would like to ask you to study this chart. It compares the liberal Tax Policy Center’s analysis of taxpayers receiving tax cuts under the individual income provisions of the law with a recent survey of taxpayers who think they received a tax cut.

Follow me on this chart. As you can see, there is a large gap between how many taxpayers actually received a tax cut and those who think they did.

Based on the Tax Policy Center analysis, nearly 70 percent of Americans earning between $30,000 and $50,000 saw a tax cut, but only about 36 percent think they got the tax cut. Similarly, more than 80 percent of Americans earning $50,000 and $70,000 received a tax cut, but only half that amount, 40 percent, think they got a tax cut. The gap between perception and reality continues as you go up the income scale. Only about half as many people who did actually get a tax cut think they did. As noted in the New York Times:

To a large degree, the gap between perception and reality on the tax cuts appears to flow from a sustained—and misleading—effort by liberal opponents of the law to brand it as a broad middle-class tax increase.

Now, read “liberal opponents” as people in the leadership of the Democratic Party, both in Congress and outside of Congress, misleading the people. You can see from these statistics on the chart that they were enormously successful and they probably knew what the information was, but for some people, when it comes to politics, the truth doesn’t matter.

Something I don’t get a chance to do very often is to applaud the New York Times for finally calling Democrats out for their efforts to mislead the American public, but even in this New York Times article, the paper was selective in its reporting. The paper and those highlighting only the Tax Policy Center’s analysis of the individual income tax provisions rather than its analysis of all major tax provisions enacted in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Even the liberal Tax Policy Center recognizes the person who has the legal burden of paying a tax isn’t necessarily the one who bears the economic incidence of that tax. For instance, it is widely recognized that a portion of the corporate tax ultimately falls on individuals in the form of reduced wages, so we cut the corporate tax rate. There ought to be a positive benefit from that for the workers.

Thus, when all major provisions of tax reform are considered, the percentage of taxpayers receiving a tax cut is not 70 percent, as reported, but 80 percent. Moreover, when you look at taxpayers with incomes between $50,000 and $70,000, the percentage receiving a tax cut climbs to 90 percent.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the complete Tax Policy Center analysis of Americans who receive tax cuts under tax reform.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

### TABLE T1B–0026—THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT (TCJA): ALL PROVISIONS AND INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX PROVISIONS TAX UNITS WITH A TAX INCREASE OR TAX CUT, BY EXPANDED CASH INCOME LEVEL, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expanded Cash Income Level (thousands of 2017 dollars)</th>
<th>Tax Units</th>
<th>Tax Units with Tax Increase or Cut</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
<th>Average Tax Change</th>
<th>All Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>88.3</td>
<td>88,945.1</td>
<td>49,660.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–20</td>
<td>21,640</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1,570,555.1</td>
<td>90,476.1</td>
<td>45,238.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–30</td>
<td>22,240</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1,775,620.1</td>
<td>93,980.1</td>
<td>46,990.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30–40</td>
<td>23,830</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>2,002,760.1</td>
<td>107,490.1</td>
<td>53,745.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40–50</td>
<td>25,420</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>2,312,909.1</td>
<td>123,950.1</td>
<td>61,975.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>50–75</td>
<td>27,010</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>2,685,710.1</td>
<td>142,450.1</td>
<td>71,225.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75–100</td>
<td>28,600</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3,058,020.1</td>
<td>162,950.1</td>
<td>81,475.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100–200</td>
<td>30,190</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>3,442,770.1</td>
<td>185,450.1</td>
<td>92,725.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200–500</td>
<td>31,780</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>3,778,780.1</td>
<td>209,950.1</td>
<td>104,075.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>500–1,000</td>
<td>33,370</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>4,094,790.1</td>
<td>235,450.1</td>
<td>115,425.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1,000</td>
<td>34,960</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>4,410,800.1</td>
<td>261,950.1</td>
<td>126,775.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>176,100</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>6,696,000.1</td>
<td>363,200.1</td>
<td>181,600.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Individual income tax provisions)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10</td>
<td>11,360</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>480.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–20</td>
<td>22,240</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>330.0</td>
<td>1,430.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–30</td>
<td>23,830</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>440.0</td>
<td>2,200.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30–40</td>
<td>25,420</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>550.0</td>
<td>2,750.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40–50</td>
<td>27,010</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>660.0</td>
<td>3,300.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–75</td>
<td>28,600</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>770.0</td>
<td>3,850.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75–100</td>
<td>30,190</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>106.0</td>
<td>880.0</td>
<td>4,400.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>31,780</td>
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<td>117.0</td>
<td>990.0</td>
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<td>33,370</td>
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<td>1,090.0</td>
<td>5,500.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500–1,000</td>
<td>34,960</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>139.0</td>
<td>1,200.0</td>
<td>6,050.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1,000</td>
<td>36,550</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>150.0</td>
<td>1,310.0</td>
<td>6,600.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>176,100</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1,850,000.0</td>
<td>11,710.0</td>
<td>58,550.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I hope that the New York Times article will be a wake-up call to congressional Democrats and people outside of Congress to abandon this misleading rhetoric. Unfortunately, it is more likely they will continue their campaign of misinformation. Yet, as more and more hard data come in on the benefits of tax reform, it will become harder and harder for the American public to take the Democrats seriously with their rhetoric.

With the tax filing season now behind us, we are finally starting to get some of this hard data. H&R Block has released data for this filing season based upon its experience in helping taxpayers during this filing season, which demonstrate how taxpayers fared in each State. Again, as you can see from this chart, taxpayers who are in red and blue States alike have all benefited from tax reform.

One knows what the rhetoric was around here even before we voted on this bill: It is an attack on the blue States. Well, it didn’t turn out that way. On average for all States, taxpayers saw a 24-percent reduction in their tax bills.

This data directly contradict misleading arguments by these Washington Democrats, as I stated, that tax reform was an attack on high-tax blue States due to the cap on the State and local tax deductions, and we set that cap at $10,000.

According to H&R Block, not according to this Senator, some of the largest tax reductions are actually found in the high-tax blue States. On average, taxpayers in New Jersey saw the largest reduction in their tax bills at 29 percent. New Jersey, based on the last several elections, is a blue State. Massachusetts had the second largest reduction of 27.6 percent, and California had the third largest at 27.1 percent. They are blue States.

The fact is, on average, taxpayers in every State have benefited from tax reform, and in some cases, high-tax blue States have fared even better than red States.

I am proud of the work we did on tax reform. No bill is perfect, and we still have work to do in addressing a number of technical correction issues, but we have kept our promise to enact meaningful reform that has cut taxes for the middle class.

Even more important is what tax reform means for long-term economic growth. It doesn’t take a tax expert to see that income, wages, jobs, and unemployment numbers have all very much improved since the enactment of this tax bill. That then reflects in significant benefits obtained by American workers. Of course, that is on top of the direct tax relief that hard-working individuals and families are already receiving, which I described at the beginning of my remarks.

Annualized growth in real after-tax personal income averaged 2.4 percent during the Obama administration; it has averaged 3.3 percent since tax reform.

Annualized growth in real average hourly earnings averaged a mere 0.6 percent under Obama compared to 1.7 percent following the enactment of the tax bill. So it is about three times as much.

Monthly job gains averaged 110,000 under President Obama; they averaged 215,000 after this tax bill passed.

There have been nearly 5.4 million jobs created since January of 2017, with more than half of that job creation having occurred since the enactment of tax reform.

Under President Obama, the unemployment rate averaged a whopping 7.4 percent. Today, it averages 3.9 percent.

Following tax reform and for the first time since 2001, the number of job openings in the national economy has exceeded the number of unemployed Americans—a phenomenon that has continued for the past year. That means an American who wants a job can get a job.

To say it simply, tax reform is working for America. For the Democrats to suggest otherwise is nothing more than their continued effort to mislead the American public. I invite the Democrats to take a page from the New York Times article, acknowledge the facts, and work with us to continue to improve the economic environment for hard-working individuals and families all across this great country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank Senator Ernst for allowing me the opportunity to talk about opportunity zones.

So much has happened since President Trump has been elected that I think has brought opportunity. The economy is obviously booming. In the State of Indiana, for instance, we have 156 opportunity zones in 83 different cities and 56 counties. That is a lot in one State. This is investment into areas that need jobs. Capital investment is hard to measure. Thank goodness it has come along and has been an opportunity that we in the Hoosier State have taken advantage of.

We are one of the lowest unemployment States in the Union. I am from Dubois County, from the town of Jasper, which supports the lowest unemployment rates in our State—a State of enterprise, a State of commerce. Workforce development is probably the most critical issue that faces our State, but we do a lot of other things well. We live within our means. We addressed infrastructure back in 2017 by repairing roads and bridges and by doing a lot of things well.

We have 80,000 jobs in our State that need one simple thing, and that is proper training.

When I went to school back in the seventies—it dates me a little bit—I took industrial arts. You had a shop class. You had a welding class. You had practical training that led you into good-paying jobs. Somewhere along the way, we kind of almost stigmatized that pathway called career and technical education. We have schools like Ivy Tech. When I was a State legislator, there were 19 different programs, and we were spending nearly $1 billion a year, but we were not providing proper training for high-demand, high-wage jobs.

In our State, we are shipping out twice as many 4-year degrees as we use. Something is not right. I just spoke with an online college, which is another issue I want to mention. The cost of these 4-year degrees has gotten way out of hand. Many graduates spend $80,000, $90,000, $100,000. They take on that debt and have jobs that are not marketable.

We need to pay attention to the simple things that most States need by reorienting the focus of education and providing proper training for jobs that
in many cases pay more than 4-year degrees, those that start in the neighborhood of $40,000 to $60,000 and have good benefits and potential wages of over $100,000 a year. In our State and in most States across the country, those are the jobs that need to be filled and of making sure our workforce development and of making sure our workforce has the skills that meet the jobs of our current economy.

One estimate said that perhaps there are a million more jobs than there are people looking for work, and a part of the reason why that is so is because we still need to make sure that we harmonize the skill set necessary to do the work with the skills being taught or trained to our younger folks and folks looking for work.

This has been an amazing journey from an economic perspective, when you think about where we are financially as a country.

This past year we saw the announcement of a growth rate of around 3.2 percent. That is astounding because all of the estimates were so significantly lower.

We finished 2018 with a growth rate of around 3.1 percent. Now, we have not seen that acceleration in our economy in a very long time. So it is really good news for those folks looking for work.

Our unemployment rate is near a 50-year low—a new record high of 3.8 and 3.9 percent. This is something we haven’t seen in a very long time. African-American unemployment is near 7 percent. Some of the lowest numbers ever recorded in the history of the country for African-American employment are there now. Hispanic unemployment is in the same range—very low, record lows.

We have seen wages in the last several months continue to increase. Wage growth is now hitting the bottom quintile of opportunity and we are seeing a very good and significant growth rate, which is really good news because it was another one of those targets that we knew was important for us to reach.

Said differently, income disparity is shrinking because of the success of our Tax Code and the success of our regulatory reset, and that is good news for everyone.

The economic recovery, however, has been uneven. Part of the challenge that we see is that there are areas of our Nation that are not doing as well as the numbers I have just indicated. That reinforces the fact that, as a whole, the Nation is succeeding and the people of our country are succeeding at a much higher level and at a faster clip. However, rural America still lags significantly and is very low, record lows.

We have seen wages in the last several months continue to increase. Wage growth is now hitting the bottom quintile of opportunity and we are seeing a very good and significant growth rate, which is really good news because it was another one of those targets that we knew was important for us to reach.

Said differently, income disparity is shrinking because of the success of our Tax Code and the success of our regulatory reset, and that is good news for everyone.

The economic recovery, however, has been uneven. Part of the challenge that we see is that there are areas of our Nation that are not doing as well as the numbers I have just indicated. That reinforces the fact that, as a whole, the Nation is succeeding and the people of our country are succeeding at a much higher level and at a faster clip. However, rural America still lags significantly and is very low, record lows.

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 development and harmonizing the skill set with the workforce in a way that allows for those folks to realize their full potential and live the American Dream. I yield to Senator CAPITO.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, the opportunity zones. Our unemployment still remains a little bit high, but it is still moving down over the last month. As recently as last week, I met a small business owner in South Charleston who is currently creating new jobs because of that tax reform. But thanks to a specific provision in the tax reform bill—a provision, as I said, that Senator Scott had pushed for—that several of our colleagues joined in—I am positive that the new tax law will continue to drive economic growth and optimism through opportunity zones. Nor is there any objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am here to join my colleagues today to speak about what I believe is one of the most significant parts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that we passed a little over a year ago, and that is the opportunity zones.

Senator SCOTT is the author and the brains behind this concept that he has been working on for years, and I was really proud to be a cosponsor of that bill and am excited to see what is going to happen

Ever since that historic legislation that we passed and became law in 2017, I have heard from many individuals, families, and small businesses back in West Virginia who are increasing their economic growth to parts of our country that, for one reason or another, have struggled more than others economically and that have been hit hard and are in need of not just a little but a major jump start. They are communities that, for one reason or another, have begun to shrink, but they are all the ways that they have benefited from this. I have met with families who have been able to save for their children, whether it is to increase their children’s education or to actually get some things done around the house that they hadn’t been able to afford before. I have spoken with small businesses that have been able to expand their operations and create new jobs. I have heard from individuals who have been able to give back to their churches and to their communities. I have seen with which, I think, may even be the most significant—a renewed sense of optimism and hope about where our economy is going, not just in our State but across the country.

Many critics of the tax cut legislation said folks like those living in West Virginia wouldn’t feel the positive effects, but I can tell you that we have experienced it. From Wheeling to Weston to Parkersburg to Huntington, our businesses are seeing people returning to the downtowns or in Weston, where there was a glass industry at some point. The downtowns have begun to shrink, but they are almost like sleeping bears. They are going to wake up, and that is what I think opportunity zones are going to do.

Today, a little less than a year ago, the Governor made the appointments of 55 areas in our State. Law firms, accounting firms, investors, and several others are working with our State to use this new tax provision to bring jobs and growth to parts of our country that need it the most.

Communities are developing pitch books—I have seen a couple on the Internet to market their projects and proposals. Our city of Parkersburg is a great example of that. A nonprofit put together a pitch book that shows where the investments can occur in and around those opportunity zones surrounding Parkersburg.

We have also seen the establishment of our first opportunity fund, called the Savage Grant.

So we have some great momentum. We are working to build on it. My staff has just done an outreach in almost every single county, and we just finished a 3-day educational tour in partnership with West Virginia Forward, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, the West Virginia Department of Commerce, and the Benedum Foundation to spread the word.

Also, nonprofits are really interested in seeing this work. It takes some of the pressure off of them. If the private investor can come in, then the nonprofits can come in and some of the alternative services and additional services that would be needed.

So we are going to keep at it, and with Treasury’s release of the most recent opportunity zone regulations, the program will be a viable tool that will become much more than ever for investments in our operating businesses. I am confident that West Virginians and others will make the most of it, and we should make the most of it because this is a great idea and a great opportunity. It is a way to transform our communities and to improve our communities and to lift up individuals and businesses that contribute, and to
build that bigger and greater foundation for a brighter future.

So these are the kinds of opportunities that, as Republicans, when we voted for this bill, we knew that this was a core part of our mission in terms of being able to deliver that firm foundation. We were going to continue to deliver for West Virginians and for all Americans.

I wish to thank the Senator from Iowa as well. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, today we have an economy that is booming. Unemployment is at its lowest in Iowa since 2000, and wages are up.

In the first quarter of this year, we saw 3.2 percent GDP growth, which far exceeded expectations, but we know economic statistics alone don’t completely tell the story of the health or wealth of a community.

More than 52 million Americans, including approximately 90,000 Iowans, live in economically distressed communities. Some have dubbed these communities as “left behind” due to low income, limited housing vacancy, and lack of hope for the future. For too long, so many of these communities were limited not because of lack of ingenuity but simply by a lack of access to opportuni- ties. Folks across Iowa have felt the door to a better job or a higher wage was closed to them.

The Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds, has been doing a tremendous job working to help these areas through both economic development and workforce development efforts. Programs like Future Ready Iowa help folks learn the skills they need to prepare for rewarding careers and the jobs of tomorrow.

Places like Dubuque, through its Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce, are working day in and day out to improve the local economy, spur on investment, and get workers trained and back on their feet. They also recognize the challenges unique to the city and its people, like childcare access and housing.

At the Federal level, we also took concrete steps in late 2017 to recognize the specific needs of these communities. Senator Tim Scott’s wonderful initiative, Investing in Opportunity Act, is in the tax reform package and created what we now know as the Opportunity Zones Program. I thank Senator Tim Scott for working so hard on this opportunity for millions of Americans. They are seeing the benefits. Thank you, Senator, very much.

The Opportunity Zones Program is tremendous. This program incentivizes long-term investment in these low-income and distressed communities by allowing private capital to be used to support small businesses, encourage our entrepreneurs, and to develop dilapidated properties in ZIP Codes most in need of resurgance.

From the heart of Des Moines to rural areas around my State of Iowa, opportunity zones are beginning to unleash the economic potential of Iowa’s communities.

Nearly a year ago, the Treasury Department approved the first opportunity zones in Iowa, which include the communities of more than 200,000 Iowans.

Last summer, as part of his opportunity zone tour, Senator Scott joined me in visiting two of these Iowa organizations. We toured two communities to see the potential of opportunity zones. He had talked about these briefly. One was the Des Moines Dream Center, and the other was the Phenix School Apartments in West Des Moines. Since becoming eligible for private investment, the Des Moines Dream Center has been able to carry out their mission of working to restore hope and helping Iowans to pursue their dreams.

Today I am proud to say that with the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, we were able to take what opportunity zones are meant to focus on. It is a critical tool, and it is in the tax legislation. It is designed to help encourage investment and therefore job creation in these communities.

As I was listening to others talk earlier, they talked about States that are identifying urban communities and rural communities that are most in need. I will tell you that in my State of Ohio, we now have 320 census tracts that have been identified. When I am traveling around the State, it doesn’t take me long to find one of these census tracts and to talk with people who are excited about the economic development that is happening.

It allows investors and companies to defer paying these capital gains taxes, and, in some cases, if they make a commitment for long enough to invest additional money, they can avoid the capital gains tax altogether. This is working, and over time it is going to create more investment in these communities.

Throughout the past year, I have been traveling to Ohio and talking to people about this. In Youngstown, OH, and in Cleveland, OH, we had roundtable meetings with investors, businesses, and community leaders, and what I have heard is that people are excited about it. They think there is great potential here. To ensure that it works like it is supposed to work, we have to make sure everybody is involved, and that does include economic developers and all levels of government, not just the businesses and investors who are excited about the tax incentives. We have to work together to make sure these programs work and do expand opportunities in these communities.
By the way, I want to highlight the promising work Ohio has done to bring everyone to the table to ensure that happens. Specifically, last week, Governor DeWine announced the creation of a new website to serve as a one-stop shop for investors, businesses, investors, and economic development officials who are looking to invest in Ohio’s opportunity zones. The website includes an interactive map that shows investors where the projects are around the State, streamlining the flow of capital into these areas that need it most. These are the kinds of things we need to be able to ensure that this works properly.

I am also encouraged by the ongoing implementation of this program by Secretary Mnuchin and the Department of Treasury. Since the implementation process began, I have been urging the Secretary to issue taxpayer-friendly regulations and rules regarding this. In other words, look at our intent—what we intended to do—which is, again, to create more jobs and economic opportunities in these zones. We asked for some further guidance on a number of threshold questions that investors were asking about, including clarifying an onerous proposal that was out there that opportunity zone businesses have to make 50 percent of their revenues within their specific zones. That doesn’t make sense for some businesses. I mean, think about a restaurant that is going to be built in an opportunity zone. If they don’t get 50 percent of the revenue from the food that they sell within the opportunity zone, that is not necessarily a bad thing. We want to be sure they are hiring people from that community, but it may be that this 50-percent rule does not work for all of these businesses, including those that are going to sell to the outside or maybe even sell to other countries from an opportunity zone.

A few weeks ago, Treasury issued a second set of regulations that took important steps to responding to each of the requests we laid out in our January letter. I am pleased to see that, specifically, they addressed the 50-percent revenue requirement, providing safe harbors that seem to allow operating businesses to generate revenue outside of their opportunity zones without the risk of losing those tax incentives. Again, I commend the Secretary and the Department for taking these steps. We need to be certain in order to ensure we take full advantage of this great opportunity. With the release of these new regulations, many more investors are going to have certainty to start making these investments in struggling communities throughout Ohio.

Overall, I am excited about the benefits of this new tax incentive, and I am committed to doing everything I can to do make sure Ohio communities benefit from it.

Thank you.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I appreciate the words my colleague from Ohio has started with and shared and the work done by this Chamber not only to cut taxes and grow our economy, but also to make sure that American businesses and entrepreneurs across the country but for individuals, small towns, and families.

I live in a town of about 3,000 people. It is a little, tiny town. Growing up, we had two stoplights, and thanks to some of the oil and gas development that took place around our town several years back, we now have a third stoplight. It is big time now. The reason it is, is because we allowed innovation to flourish. We allowed technology to develop new ways for success, our energy resources, but while the policies in the field and in commerce have advanced, sometimes the policies in this place have grown stale. That is why I was excited to support the tax cuts of last Congress that have energized our economy. Those tax cuts opened up the opportunity for American workers and families, and that has led to billions of dollars being brought back into the United States from overseas.

Of course, one of the provisions of many of my colleagues has been talked about today is the Opportunity Zones Program that was established in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. When we were getting the Opportunity Zones Program up and running, as a cosponsor of that legislation, my office heard complaints that there might not be enough money for the investments that would be utilized within these opportunity zones. In fact, we heard from people who were saying that no one would be interested in starting a business in different areas, maybe there can be new life breathed into these small communities—that business, that jewelry store leaves, if there is nobody to take over the business, maybe that will be just one more empty storefront in that town. Nobody will come in to take it over. There is no Zales or Kay Jewelers that is going to come in and replace this smalltown jewelry store.

Through an opportunity zone and the chances we are giving people to invest in rural areas or in urban areas, maybe there can be new life breathed into these small communities—that business, that jewelry store and others like it—to make sure that we don’t lose businesses and to make sure that we grow active businesses and that we start new businesses as well.

It is the difference between having access to services on our local Main Street—like that jewelry store; like that plant; like a pizza shop—and having to travel to the next town over and taking the dollars out of that town and bringing them to a different city. It is the difference between going out at all and staying home. A boarded-up storefront tells people to go somewhere else; it is not a “Welcome Home” sign. When those boards are taken down, the town comes back to life—new spirit, new opportunity. Opportunity zones have the potential to take those boards down and to revive our Main Streets.

Whether it is small towns, big cities, or midsized economies and communities, the zone shares one common trait: They are communities across
Mr. GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I have worked to secure tax policies to help spur entrepreneurship, competition, and innovation. Opportunity zones are a perfect example of the type of tax policy that creates that kind of growth in our economy.

Opportunity zones were created under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed by the President in December 2017. That bill stimulates economic development by allowing job creation across the country by incentivizing long-term investments in economically distressed neighborhoods. Last year, more than 8,700 census tracts were identified as opportunity zones by the Governors of each of the 56 States. These zones are home to approximately 31 million Americans, or roughly 10 percent of the population.

Even in just this short period, we are already seeing wage increases within those economically distressed areas after their having been designated as opportunity zones. For example, during the second and third quarters of last year, our counties with a large presence of opportunity zones experienced an annualized wage growth of 8 percent. That is compared to other economically distressed counties that were not designated as zones, which did not see a significant spike in wages.

We are also seeing States across the country showing an interest in opportunity zones, with at least 17 State legislators considering their own opportunity zone measures at the State level.

Although States can’t make direct investments into the Federal opportunity zone projects, many are considering measures to encourage initiatives such as solar energy or affordable housing. Even in my home State of Iowa, cities such as Iowa City and Coralville have made local investments in their economically distressed communities and are actively recruiting investors for development projects in their opportunity zones.

I also want to applaud the efforts of the Treasury Department to provide much needed clarity for community leaders and investors. These include two packages of proposed regulations dedicated to implementing opportunity zone rules.

As the Treasury Department works to finalize these regulations and provide other guidance, I will continue working with Secretary Mnuchin, States and local communities to ensure that opportunity zones succeed in driving new business investment and activity to America’s low-income communities.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the previous action, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the Wolson nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of the veto message on S.J. Res. 7, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, in the absence of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, with no intervening action or debate, at 1:45 p.m., Thursday, May 2, and with 5 minutes of debate prior to the vote under the control of Senator MENENDEZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brasher nomination?

Mr. UDALL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 87 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander  
Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Burkin  
Boozman  
Brown  
Burr  
Capito  
Cardin  
Collins  
Corayn  
Cortez  
Cramer  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Enzi  
Eskanders  
Fischer  
Gardner  
Grassley  
Graham  
Gardner  
Feinstein  
Gillibrand  
Harris  
Hawley  
Hirono  
Hoeven  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Johnson  
Johnston  
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Lankford  
Lee  
Lancaster  
Lankford  
Manchin  
Marrero  
Merrick  
Menendez  
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Morgan  
Moran  
Murray  
Nelson  
Portman  
Romney  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Saunders  
Shelby  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Titus  
Toomey  
Wicker  

NAYS—47

Baldwin  
Bennet  
Bennet  
Brown  
Cantwell  
Carper  
Casey  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Feinstein  
Gillibrand  
Grassley  
Graham  
Gardner  
Fischer  
Ernst  
Enzi  
Cruz  
Cramer  
Cornyn  
Burr  
Braun  
Blackburn  
Barrasso  
Alexander

YEAS—52

Alexander  
Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Burkin  
Boozman  
Brown  
Burr  
Capito  
Cardin  
Collins  
Corayn  
Cortez  
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NAYS—47

Baldwin  
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Gillibrand  
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Gardner  
Fischer  
Ernst  
Enzi  
Cruz  
Cramer  
Cornyn  
Burr  
Braun  
Blackburn  
Barrasso  
Alexander

NOT VOTING—1

Young

The nominations was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all votes will be 10 minutes each.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Rodolfo Armando Ruiz II, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

I will remind the Senate this is a 10-minute vote, and we got the last vote done in an excellent 20 minutes. Let's see if we can do better.

The chair will call the roll.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Young).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Ex.]

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NOT VOTING—1

Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 89, the nays are 10. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joshua Wolson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joshua Wolson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The chair will call the roll.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Young).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 90 Ex.]

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NOT VOTING—1

Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays are 35. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joshua Wolson,
of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

BARR HEARING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we have now had the honor of hearing the Attorney General testified before the Judiciary Committee, and many issues are not resolved because there are great discrepancies based on Mr. Mueller’s letter that has been made public. And that has been made public between what Mr. Barr has been saying and what Mr. Mueller believes.

The cloud that hangs over our country because of Russian interference in our elections—and, frankly, that hangs over the President because of the actions Mr. Mueller outlined in his report—remains. There is a great need to clear all of that up and to clear all of it up with no ands, ifs, or buts.

I was shocked when I heard the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, our friend and colleague whom I have traveled with, LINDSEY GRAHAM, come out of the hearing and say that he was not going to call Mueller for a hearing. The fact that he on his own, despite the desires of other members of the committee, would simply say that Mueller is not going to testify was so outrageous and wrong. So I went to my colleague here on the floor—my friend LINDSEY GRAHAM. I said to him: How can you do this? This is outrageous. He said: I am just going to ask Mr. Mueller in a letter if Barr said anything misleading or inaccurate but not have the hearing.

I was appalled.

Now I see on a tweet by a reporter, Emma Dumain, that LINDSEY GRAHAM has slightly modified what he has said. He said that if Mueller tells GRAHAM in what he or she is. Special Counsel Mueller just concluded one of the most important investigations in our Nation’s history. The Senate and the American people have a right to hear from the special counsel directly about the threat of foreign interference in our elections and, yes, the conduct of the President. It is one of the biggest takeaways from this hearing; that we need the special counsel here to testify, to clarify the discrepancies between what he and the Attorney General are saying. We don’t need a letter. We don’t need conditions. That seems like a game, a dodge, a ruse, a way to prevent Mr. Mueller from testifying.

In my view, Attorney General Barr routinely mischaracterizes the special counsel’s words, his intentions, his reasoning. We know, from the special counsel’s letter that was publicly released, that to be true. It is likely that Attorney General Barr did so again in the hearings. We need to hear from the special counsel himself to sort this out and get the truth, not at the discretion of the Chairman, who, let us be real, but because America, our system of government, our rule of law, demands it.

Congress has always had, from the days of the Founding Fathers, a duty to provide oversight for the executive branch. Just because one party doesn’t feel like doing it because the President is from the same party doesn’t measure up to the grandness of our Constitution.

My dear friend from South Carolina, please rethink your position. Back off, this idea that Mueller shouldn’t testify or should only testify if he meets certain conditions only set by you and call Special Counsel Mueller in to testify.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

MISSOURI FLOODING

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, we have been stuck for some time now on having an appropriations bill that meets the disasters that have occurred recently in Missouri and, before that, in the Carolinas and Georgia, and other places. I want to continue to work hard to help our constituents, to talk about the special set of circumstances for people who do because of the flood.

We do know there has been at least $25 million in damages to public infrastructure and costs of emergency measures experienced statewide. There have been 215 road closures statewide, with 46 roads that continue to be closed as late as the third week in April. Interstate 29, north of St. Joseph, has been closed since March 7, and we expect it to stay closed until probably June.

This is obviously a very disruptive set of circumstances for people who normally would use those roads and bridges all the time. One of the major issues is the damage to infrastructure and these roads, particularly interstate highways, where you can go in quickly and efficiently without the damage that has been done. Unlike a levee that can be repaired, the levee that has been lost. Many farmers will not be able to get crops in the ground this year because it will be too wet once the water goes down—until it is too late to successfully plant the crops. So thousands of acres and hundreds of farms just simply will not be able to do what they do because of the flood.

The scale and scope of these events has clearly overwhelmed local governments, overwhelmed county governments, and stretched the government in a significant way. Most effectively, and most importantly, it has impacted families and individuals. If your home is underwater, if it takes 2 more hours to get to school, if you have no chance of planting your crop, if you are in a business that relates to the family who is going to plant the crop, if you have nobody buying the seed or paying the repairs for their equipment, paying for the gasoline—the things you do to stay in business—that has all kinds of impact as well.

The Governor of Missouri has requested a Presidential disaster declaration. I am certainly for that, and every
Member of the Missouri delegation signed the letter asking the President to grant that declaration. The assistance that would be impacted by this would be vital. It is important. We need that kind of assistance now.

I am going to continue to work—and I hope all our colleagues continue to work—to make this year’s disasters and last fall’s disasters eligible for the funds we appropriate for disaster coverage. During the flood, a lot has been said about the Corps of Engineer’s management of the Missouri River, and what, if anything, they could have done that might have prevented the flood this time. I think probably not. This is such an unusual flood that the locks on the Missouri were north of where the flood occurred. There was a dam that broke that would not normally have broken, and that would normally not even be part of the Missouri River management system.

The Corps has been out there trying to help figure out how to recover rather than figure out what caused this particular flood. In fact, the Corps and the people in places like the Kansas City office of the Corps understand the Missouri River better than anybody, in my view, and are helpful when they can be.

That doesn’t mean the Corps, in a greater sense, isn’t responsible for what has become the new normal on the Missouri River. We have had recurrent historic flooding on the river now for 15 years. Ever since the Corps asked for a new management plan in 2004 and got the new management plan, it just simply doesn’t work.

At least 6 of the top 10 river crests in recorded history have occurred in the last 15 years. Flooding in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011—you see the pattern here—2013, and 2019. The only reason we didn’t have dramatic floods every year was we had a couple of drought years in 2009 and 2012.

That all goes back to that 2004 management plan. What changed in 2004? In 2004, the Corps started to implement the Missouri River Recovery Program in response to a Biological Opinion—“opinion” may be the key word here—Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which took the position that the existing management of the river was impacting one species of fish and two species of birds.

The ultimate result was prioritizing the management of the entire river to benefit that fish and those birds. It was above flood control. It was above navigation. It didn’t consider what was detrimental to farms, to farms, or the local infrastructure and was not necessary life is a high priority goal, but for that goal to truly be worthy, it has to also include how it impacts families, how it impacts people, and how it impacts the economy.

We had management plans on the Mississippi River as well. But the wildlife management plans didn’t become the plan that substituted for all other plans. The Corps’ management plan brought about changes to the lower river. There are six locks and there are six dams, rather, and reservoirs above the Lower Missouri that starts roughly in the place where Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri all come together. What happened is we didn’t stabilize the banks, constructing pallid sturgeon chutes that impacted how the water ran into the river. They no longer dredged the river like they had before. Just to understand why that matters, a 9-foot channel in a river carries about 20,000 more water than a 6- or 7-foot channel of the river. If you are channeling the river so you can still navigate the river, they had interception rearing complexes, none of which appears to have made much of a difference, except they made it hard to control the river at flood stage.

Modifying or eliminating the river control systems eliminate the normal things in a river, such as revegetation, and allow the river to do its job. For example, you notch a dike in the river—which means you cut a hole in a structure that is assigning the water—that when you do that, bad things happen. That is why that structure was put there in the first place for a reason.

One of the most disappointing parts of what has happened is a relatively low level of certainty that any of these things do any good. In fact, the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife people have already abandoned the pursuit of what they constructed, pallid sturgeon chutes, which they thought would encourage the fish to multiply. By the way, this is a fish we happen to multiply to help figure out how to recover. We didn’t work, but they did encourage more flood risk.

I would have one suggestion for the Corps: If you know an action will impact the river, and you know it will harm people and harm property and you don’t know whether it will help save a species, don’t do it. There has to be a way you figure out first whether this is going to work, and then you might evaluate if it is so important that we are going to impact people and property.

What we had is a big experiment that turned out to be wrong thing to do to start with. It didn’t serve the purpose, and it did harm the river and people who live on the river. Flood control and navigation needs to be, once again, elevated to the top two priorities of managing the river. I look forward to working with my colleagues to figure out how to do this in a better way.

There is no question that the Mississippi River is about to be more important than it has been in 100 years. There is also no reason that the Mississippi, as an environment and as an avenue that people can get near and enjoy from a tourist’s and traveler’s perspective, can’t be there, and there is no reason it can’t continue to be managed in a way that benefits families, that benefits economic, and that doesn’t repeat year after year after year the flooding that did not occur under the original management plan.

We need to look at that plan. We need to have a management plan that meets the commonsense standard. The current plan does not, and we have had now 15 years to prove that the current plan does not meet it. I am going to be working hard with both the Corps, the Department of the Interior, and Fish and Wildlife to see that we don’t have a plan that meets that commonsense standard.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. President, I am grateful to all our colleagues for their comments about the disaster. We are having a disaster in the U.S. Senate because we haven’t been able to solve our emergency problem yet. It is not because of Senator Sanders, he has done a great job, as have many Members of the Senate. We are close now, and there is a meeting this afternoon with important Senators. We are close on Hawaii, on Alaska, on Georgia, on South Carolina, on Tennessee, on Alabama, on Florida, and on the other States that have had disasters in the past year to which we have still been late on getting disaster emergency funds.

In fact, in Georgia, this is the 222nd day, in the case of one emergency, that those funds have been held up. In the agricultural season, 222 days is 1½ plants. It is one planting, one picking, and a second planting. So it is a significant part of the agricultural year. We are getting killed in Georgia. Our farmers are getting hurt badly because of the ineptitude, in part and sometimes in whole, of the U.S. Senate.

Finally, cool heads are coming together. We are getting over some arguments, and we are getting some things solved. Thanks to the help of Senator Blunt and others in the U.S. Senate, we are going to get help to our farmers in Georgia, to those in Alabama, and to those in Alaska from the earthquake and to those in Hawaii from the lava flow and the eruptions they have had there and from all of the other disasters we have had. Finally, that money is going to start flowing.

REMEMBERING BETTY JO WILLIAMS

Mr. President, I want to thank all the great friends from the last week—one of them was a Georgian. Nobody in this room knew her. Her name was Betty Jo Williams, who was 90 years old.
Betty Jo was elected to the Georgia Legislature in 1978, which was 2 years after I was elected in 1976 to that same body. We were two scrappy Republicans in a world of Democrats in Georgia. I was one of the first people to get elected in Cobb County, which is a suburban county of Atlanta, and she was the first woman to get elected to anything in Georgia. She was one of the first to break the glass ceiling. A lot of people may ask: Where is this glass ceiling? I will tell you where it is. A lot of people tried to make their way, but they were always held back by laws or custom or whatever.

Betty Jo fought for women's rights, and she fought for women's rights in the right way. She saw to it that women were equally represented and that they had an opportunity to represent themselves. She fought hard to see that women were numbered by men by 20 to 1, she was a great compliment to her, too, for she didn't have a funeral one day, somebody will come and remember on that day something I did for him. It is something you never take away.

Betty Jo was a unique person. She had a husband and three wonderful children. Her husband passed on, and she spent the rest of her 25 years of life living with another gentleman. They had their children. Between the two of them, they raised 12 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren—wonderful kids with wonderful opportunities. They helped those kids grow up to understand the great promise America had.

When Betty Jo served in the legislature back in the sixties and seventies, you didn't find people putting their numbers in the phonebook. Betty Jo was the first one. She paid extra to have her number put in there in big, bold, black letters. She started the custom by which, all of a sudden, all who were in the State legislature got the Betty Jo Williams rule applied to them. If they didn't have their numbers in the book, they weren't in touch with their constituents. She did little things like that to make a difference.

She was a woman who was appointed to the Judiciary Committee. It was a great compliment to her, too, for she was not a lawyer. Even though she was not a lawyer, she was well respected, even by the speaker of the house, so she was appointed to the Judiciary Committee.

Speaking of the speaker of the house in Georgia, his name was Tom Murphy. He said: No, you wouldn't. I will take you over there with me. We will study it, and you will be great.

Today, 15 years later, I am still on the Africa Subcommittee. I have been the chairman of it for half that time. I got to know Dick Lugar, and he was the best man for being the chairman of the Africa Subcommittee. I said: Well, Dick, I will be happy to take the seat, but I don't know a damned thing about Africa. I have never been there. I would be a bad chairman.

When I got elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, I came here and was put on the Foreign Relations Committee in 2006 primarily because we were one Republican short and because nobody else would take the seat. So I wasn't the unanimous choice; I was the only choice.

Dick Lugar came to me and said: Johnny, would you take this seat? I have to have somebody be the chairman of the Africa Subcommittee. I said: Well, Dick, I will be happy to take the seat, but I don't know a damned thing about Africa. I have never been there. I would be a bad chairman.
Sam Nunn and Dick Lugar dismantled most of the loose nukes that were lying on the floor of the Soviet Union when the wall fell in Berlin. In the years after that time, he saw to it that they were disposed of properly rather than being allowed to fall into the hands of some terrorist who would have made a dirty bomb later on. Dick Lugar did all of that for his country.

He loved his 604-acre farm back home in Indiana—his family home—which he still tended the day he died. It was where he served as not a visiting professor but as a real professor and not as an adjunct professor but as a real professor. It was where he talked about peace, love, hope, and humanity. Most importantly of all, he talked about people solving the problems of the world by working together and not against each other.

I don’t know that I will ever know a better man than Dick Lugar. I am a little younger than Dick, although not by that much, I haven’t served very as long in this body as he had. Yet, in all of the time I have been here and from all of the things I have read about great Members of the Senate and of the ones I have known, like Sam Nunn from Georgia, I think he never known one better than Dick Lugar.

As a tribute to Dick—and just so you will know, the New START treaty is coming up for renewal in the next couple of years. The New START treaty is the treaty under which we broke the ice on inspecting and verifying nuclear warheads. Because of what Dick Lugar and Sam Nunn did and because of what we did in the Foreign Relations Committee in the negotiations for that, along with John Kerry and others, we saw to it that we got no notice of inspections in the Soviet Union and no notice of inspections in America of our nuclear warheads.

In 12 hours, we can get somebody to Moscow, Russia to look on the floor of the nuclear storage facility and say: We are coming in. When we go in, we can scan the hologram on the nuclear warhead—it is part of the treaty—which is embedded so you can count the warheads. A lot of these nuclear warheads are not comprised of just 1 bomb—they have 12 or 15. It is so we will know exactly what they have and so they will know exactly what we have.

Knowledge is power. Dick saw to it that we had the knowledge of what we had and what they had before we got in trouble rather than to have an altercation and then a threat and have to say that we really didn’t know what they had or what we had and then to have to start overcompensating. The one thing you know, we would be overcompensating with war when we start living the lies unnecessarily—when we do the wrong thing.

When I look at my checklist one of these days of all of those great people I had the chance to know, of the people I learned so much from, of the people I appreciated were around when I got to live so my kids could grow up in a world that was freer and more prosperous and more safe than any world possible, I will know Dick Lugar was my friend. I will know I had the honor of serving with him.

To Dick Lugar’s family, to his many friends in Washington to the people of the State of Indiana who felt blessed just by having him so long, Dick lived a great life.

God bless you. Thank you for your service.

God bless the United States of America and Dick Lugar.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The Acting President pro tempore, The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The Acting President pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Georgia, who just gave some great memories about Dick Lugar—one of the truly great Senators who served here in the last half century. He was a friend and was someone whom so many of us looked up to.

One of the things he did that was special to Ohio was that he became totally devoted to his college, Denison University. He served on the board until his death. He was the longest serving board member ever, I am sure. He not only served on the board, but he showed up. Denison University, which is in my State of Ohio, is very grateful for his service, and as a neighbor from Indiana, again, I miss him, and I appreciate him.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH H. HEAD, JR.

Mr. President, I am here to take a moment to remember Joe Head, a man who was also one of the great Ohioans, Joseph H. Head, Jr., who was known for his leadership, for his unwavering loyalty to his city of Cincinnati, OH—my hometown—for his vision, and for all of his contributions. He was a tireless contributor to our community. In fact, I would describe Joe as a kind of one-person chamber of commerce for Greater Cincinnati. He loved his city, and he loved to help young people. I was a beneficiary of that.

I first met Joe when I was either in junior high school or just getting into high school. As usual, he was very direct. He came up to me and asked me about my future. I had no idea what my future was going to be.

He asked: Have you ever been to a law firm?

I said: No, I have not.

None of my family had been lawyers, and I hadn’t had any experience with that.

He said: Why don’t you borrow a tie from your father and come down to my law firm.

What do you say to that?

So I said: Yes, I will do that.

I remember I was a little intimidated, but I went downtown with my tie on—it was a little bit long for me—and I had an interesting visit with Joe Head.

Then, when I was in college, Joe Head gave me my first job in politics. It was an internship with then-Congressman Bill Gradison. Joe Head had been the chairman of his efforts and suggested that I work for him.

Bill Gradison was a Republican from my hometown, and 16 years later, I succeeded him in Congress. Trust me, I had no clue that I was going to do that at the time I interned for him, but that door was opened by Joe Head.

I went on to practice international trade law after going to law school. Again, a lot of that was because of Joe Head, being exposed to the law through him. I then came back to Cincinnati and worked in his law firm, Graydon Head & Ritchey, where he was managing partner.

Lo and behold, George H.W. Bush got elected President and asked me to come to Washington to work in the White House. When I went to see the President, Joe Head encouraged me to do that, but he also encouraged me to come home when I was done. In fact, at the farewell party sending me off to Washington from the law firm, there was a large card that was presented to Joe Head on that card: “Come home when you are done.” That was great advice, maybe some of the best advice I ever took, because I did go home, went back to the law firm, and became a partner in that law firm.

I had not expected to run for Congress, but, again, Bill Gradison had re-signed unexpectedly, and Joe Head, of course, chaired my campaign.

He was a guy who didn’t just benefit people like me; he benefited everybody in Greater Cincinnati because he was so involved throughout his life.

In 2016, he and his wife Louise were honored with the Jake Davis Award from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. That is a big deal. It is an annual award given to only one community-minded citizen or couple who volunteer their time and leadership skills to make Greater Cincinnati a better place to live and to work. Joe certainly lived up to that.

Just a couple months ago, Joe also received another big honor, and that was the highest honor of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce called the Great Living Cincinnatian Award. I had the honor of being there to watch him receive that award. He received it for his community service, his leadership, and his lifetime of helping others in the community—all of his distinguished accomplishments.

Joe also served his country. Prior to his service to our community, he served in Germany with the U.S. Army’s artillery division for a couple of years. He also had the Midas touch in law and in business, both as the
managing partner at the Graydon Head & Ritchey law firm and then as CEO and chairman of the Atkins & Pearce company, an industrial textile business.

His active service on area boards was where he found his calling and himself. I got into the habit of just calling him Chairman because he chaired everything. He chaired the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, the Children’s Home of Greater Cincinnati, the Christ Hospital Board, the Fine Arts Center of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Business Committee. I know I have missed a number of entities, institutions, and nonprofits he chaired. The point is, no one was a bigger booster or bigger contributor to our community.

I think I can speak for a lot of people when I say that we are going to miss his dedication, his humor, his wisdom, and his uncanny ability to articulate and define issues. He was an impressive leader, a dear friend, and a truly great Cincinnati citizen.

To his extraordinary wife, Louise, of 60 years; to his children, Lisa, Jeb, and Andy, and their spouses, Nirvani, Jack, and Melanie; to his grandchildren and his one great-grandchild, Jane and I send our condolences. We are thinking about you. Joe was so proud of each and every one of you.

May we all endeavor to embrace Joe’s extraordinary commitment to his community and carry on his profound legacy.

Godspeed, Joe Head.

Mr. President, I would now like to yield to my colleague from Delaware who has just come to the floor, and I would like to speak after him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER A. SLUTMAN

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend and colleague from Ohio for his kindness in yielding to me today.

I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to an American hero—this man right here—an American hero and patriot who was taken away from us far too soon.

Earlier last month, I was standing on the flight line at Dover Air Force Base alongside Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester; our colleague in the Senate, Chris Coons; and our Governor, John Carney. We were there to join the members of three families who had come to receive the remains of their loved ones, all marines who had been killed in action on April 8—a couple weeks earlier—when a roadside bomb went off in Afghanistan near Kabul as their convoy was passing through.

Two of the servicemembers killed were Active Duty: Cpl Robert A. Hendriks of Long Island, NY, and SSgt Benjamin S. Hines of York County, PA, which is not too far from my State of Delaware.

There was a third marine, SSgt Christopher Slutman. Christopher was a reservist, a 15-year member of the New York City Fire Department, and a Delawarean. The 43-year-old U.S. marine was also a loving husband to his wife, Shannon, and the father of three girls: McKenna, age 10; Kenley, age 8; and Weslynn, age 4.

Dr. John Carney. We were there to join the Christ Hospital Board, the Fine Arts Center of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Business Committee. I know I have missed a number of entities, institutions, and nonprofits he chaired. The point is, no one was a bigger booster or bigger contributor to our community.

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There was a third marine, SSgt Christopher Slutman. Christopher was a reservist, a 15-year member of the New York City Fire Department, and a Delawarean. The 43-year-old U.S. marine was also a loving husband to his wife, Shannon, and the father of three girls: McKenna, age 10; Kenley, age 8; and Weslynn, age 4.

In the line of duty, Staff Sergeant Slutman epitomized the best of this country. He selflessly put his life on the line to protect and serve his country and his community.

We read in the New Testament these words, and I will paraphrase them: No greater love has any man than his willingness to lay down his life for a friend. These three marines laid down their lives for our country, and they also laid down their lives for a nation we are allied with, the government and the people of Afghanistan.

Winston Churchill said a lot of memorable things, but one of the most memorable to me, a retired Navy captain, is that a reservist is twice a citizen. A reservist is a citizen.

By that measure, Christopher Slutman was three times a citizen. He wore two uniforms in service to our Nation. One of them was this uniform, the fire department—a 15-year, decorated veteran of the New York City Fire Department. That’s that of a staff sergeant of the U.S. Marines, serving in the 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division in the Marine Forces Reserve, which is based in Harrisburg, PA.

Christopher’s family calls him Chris. Chris had always dreamed of being a firefighter. He grew up in Maryland. He graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, where he played football, basketball, wrestled, and achieved Eagle Scout status. As a father of two Eagle Scouts, that is quite an achievement. Eventually, he volunteered with fire departments in Maryland and in Washington, DC. Most recently, he spent his time between the Bronx that in 2014 he won the Fire Department Sergeant’s Association Memorial Medal for rescuing an unconscious woman from the 11th floor of a high-rise apartment building. I heard a firsthand account of that rescue, and it tells the story of a hero and a woman who could easily have died, and she didn’t, and it was because of his actions. Staff Sergeant Slutman lived that kind of profound love. He dedicated his life to serving others even at his own peril.

It seems that this kind of selflessness and devotion to service was a hallmark of the Slutman household. Staff Sergeant Slutman is survived by three brothers. One of his brothers is in the Marines, another is in the Army, and the third is a firefighter in Washington, DC—right here. Their father was an Army veteran and was also a very close friend and fellow servicemember in New York City to pay our respects, along with the mayor of New York City and many other dignitaries who were there to pay their respects to a man who gave his life for this country.

The first speaker at his funeral was Marine SgtMaj Christopher Armstrong—another Christopher—who served alongside his friend Chris for 8 years. Marine Sergeant Major Armstrong remembered Chris Slutman with these words. Here is what Christopher Armstrong had to say:

Upon joining the unit, I began observing the Marines; who they watched, how they looked at their leaders, and what they said. There were a small number of men that when they spoke, silence fell; when they issued an order, the response was immediate; and when they were looked upon, it was with reverence. Christopher Slutman immediately stood out as a leader who was both respected and admired. He didn’t pound his chest, he didn’t try to impress or go on about what he was going to do. He just did it.

He just did it.

Sergeant Major Armstrong continued:

Chris Slutman placed his Marines’ welfare before his own. Chris never sought credit, but he always gave it.

Think about that. That is a good lesson for all of us, even here. Chris Slutman never sought credit; he always gave it to others.

Mr. President, I believe there was a poet named Edgar Guest—like no other guest—Edgar Guest. I think I spent most of his life in Detroit, MI. He was often times referred to as a people’s poet. He
used to say: “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day.” Think about that. “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day.”

Chris Slutman, your life was better than any sermon.

Chris demonstrated the absolute best of our country every day with his heroism and his service to others. The way he lived his life and the way he gave his life is a language that is clear to one and all.

It was with a heavy heart that I, along with the entire First State—that is the State of Delaware—and the people of this country, offer our sincere condolences to Chris’s wife, Shannon, and their three girls. Their dad is an American hero.

Our congressional delegation and our Governor promise that he will not soon be forgotten.

I know that his legacy lives on in his daughters and in his wife, Shannon. A friend of mine was married to a Navy SEAL a number of years ago. That marriage produced a daughter who is 18 years old and who will graduate from high school later this month. Her dad died of complications of PTSD. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan, as I recall, and he came down with ALS. Lou Gehrig’s disease. He succumbed to that about a year ago. Members of my staff in Delaware—constituent service staff—have worked for months trying to make sure that 18-year-old daughter would be eligible for the benefits of her Navy SEAL dad, now deceased. We learned last month that she will be eligible.

One of the things our congressional delegation will work hard to do is to make sure that to the extent that Chris Slutman was eligible for the GI bill—and our guess is that he was—those benefits, under the law, if not used by the veteran, by the soldier, by the sailor, or by the airman, could be used by the spouse, and if not used by the spouse, could be used by a dependent child.

There are three dependent children here—three daughters who are beautiful girls, who anyone would be proud to claim as their own child, grandchild, or niece. We are going to work hard to make sure that those GI bill benefits—if there is any way to do this legally—accrue to Chris and Shannon and Shannon’s three daughters.

Thank you. Thank my friend Senator Portman for his kindness in yielding tonight.

To Chris Slutman: God bless you, Chris.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, first, I say thanks to my colleague from Delaware for the touching tribute to Chris’s service in the U.S. Navy. I am here to talk about our economy, which is going on out there, and how we can do a better job of bringing people off the sidelines and into work. They are needed.

Right now we have an incredibly strong economy. We just learned in the first quarter of this year that the economy grew by 3.2 percent. That is strong growth. In fact, when you look at the expectations that were set by the Congressional Budget Office, which is a nonpartisan group that analyzes what is going to happen in the economy going forward, prior to the tax reform—that is, the tax reform and tax cuts from the end of 2017—they said this first quarter growth would be 1.6 percent. It is interesting. It was exactly twice the economic growth than was projected before the tax bill.

By the way, before the tax bill, they also made a projection on jobs. Over the last year, we have produced just about exactly twice as many jobs—a little more than that—than was projected. The tax cuts and the tax reform have worked just as regulatory relief, to give this economy a shot in the arm. That is so important.

I will say that when you look at what happened in the first quarter of this year, the 3.2 percent is great, but it could have been 6.2 percent if we had made the government shutdown late last year, which was the longest government shutdown in the history of our country. So it would have been 3.6 percent instead of 3.2 percent. Wow, that would have been great. If we had not shut down the government. I say that because we have some new numbers from the Congressional Budget Office that say that the level of GDP this first quarter would have been 6.2 percent if we had not had the government shutdown late last year, which was the longest government shutdown in the history of our country.

The other thing I think is really important and may be the most important statistic of all is the fact that wages are going up for the first time in a decade. Really, in Ohio, for a decade and a half, we have had flat wages—higher expenses but flat wages. It is really frustrating to the families who are working hard and doing everything right but can’t get ahead. Over the last year wages have increased three times more than the inflation. A 3.4-percent wage increase is the strongest we have seen since the great recession. I love the fact that this wage growth is happening not just among higher paid individuals but, actually, primarily among what is called non-supervisory employees. That is how the Department of Labor terms it. These are blue-collar jobs. These are middle-class jobs. We have a lot of people who, again, have had a tough time making ends meet. I know in my State most people work paycheck to paycheck, and it is great to have that higher wage come in.

We have a tax cut reform because we believed it is the right thing to do for our economy, for employers, for investment, and we have seen that positive impact. I have had over two dozen townhall meetings and roundtable discussions in my State, talking to employers, usually smaller businesses, about what happened to them with regard to tax reform. Every single one of them said the same thing: We have re-invested in the business. We have invested in technology, in new equipment, and if not used by the people. In some cases, that means better benefits. In two cases, small businesses acknowledged to me that they weren’t providing healthcare before the tax cuts, and now they are because of the tax cuts. They have also invested in people’s 401(k)s and other benefits. That is what is happening out there in terms of the business side of the tax reform and tax cuts.

In addition to that, there are also a lot of Americans who now have more of their hard-earned money coming home. Their paychecks are better because of the middle-class tax cuts that are in the legislation. For Ohio, this amounted to $2,000 per year, on average, for a median-income family. I know there has been a lot of discussion by others saying: Well, really, these tax cuts didn’t happen. Yes, they did. They did. That is a fact. Most people I represent have seen a tax cut, and a lot of those individuals saw their overall tax liability go down—not just that the monthly checks were better, but on April 15 they had better news. Let me give you some facts about that.

According to H&R Block, which is probably the firm that handles more middle-class tax returns than any other firm in the country, the average Ohioan saw a 23.3-percent decrease in their overall tax bill in 2018. This is from H&R Block. They said that there is a 23.3-percent increase in the average refund in Ohio. I know there has been a lot of discussion about this back and forth, and early on people were concerned about their refunds. These are the numbers. These are the facts from H&R Block. Overall, about 90 percent of middle-class Americans received a tax cut in 2018, which means more money in their pockets to pay down student debt, to save for retirement, to take a long-awaited family vacation, and to again achieve whatever their dream is in life.

The economy is growing, creating jobs, and wages are rising. That is all
good news. But with more jobs there is a problem that has developed, and that is a lack of workers. I can’t go anywhere in Ohio—and I just had a bunch of meetings in Ohio, talking about this—where people don’t tell me: We don’t have enough qualified workers to fill these jobs. So you ask the OhioMeansJobs website right now, you will see about 145,000 jobs being offered. When you look at them, these are good jobs. A lot of them, though, require a certain level of skill. Some are information technology jobs, coding jobs. Some are skilled manufacturing jobs, like machining or welding. Some of the jobs are in bioscience, healthcare jobs, technicians. The problem is we don’t have the people who have the skills to fill those jobs. That is a shame for those individuals who aren’t achieving their hopes in life because they aren’t getting those good jobs and certainly for our economy, which would be even stronger if we had more people to fill those jobs.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the Department of Labor, 7.3 million U.S. jobs are currently vacant, largely because of the shortage of qualified workers. The National Skills Trust estimates that nearly half of all job openings between now and 2022 will be what they call middle-skill jobs. This means jobs that require education beyond high school, like a certificate program, but not a 4-year degree. The supply of skilled workers in this category—students pursuing post high school certifications—still falls way short of what the industry demand is.

This is why career and technical education is so important and why I support additional investments in these shorter term programs to put people working directly with these communities in Ohio. I had the chance to meet the new President of Ohio State, Dr. John Berry. There are a lot of exciting things happening at this career and technical college.

They work pretty closely with Ohio State, which is terrific. If you have Ohio State, a 4-year college, and a great series of graduate programs, working directly with these community colleges that focus on skills training. They are expanding their programmatic needs because they want the JOBS Act, according to them, will greatly benefit the students who are using these shorter term programs to put them on a path to a good-paying job.

In Walnut Creek, OH, I spoke at the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance’s annual meeting in Hocking County. This meeting represented counties from all over eastern and southeastern Ohio. We talked about a lot of things, including the shortage of skilled workers, because it comes up again and again. In this case, Ohio has this wonderful opportunity with the Marcellus and the Utica Shale finds to develop our natural gas and our wet gas and our oil industry, but they need workers. And they don’t want workers coming in from out of State, frankly. We want to develop our own Ohio workforce, and we can only do that with skills training because a lot of these jobs require skills that are not available in Ohio today.

In Columbus, last week I spoke at a reentry conference. This is an annual conference talking about how to get people going from prison into our communities with the job skills they need and the mental health and drug treatment they need to be successful. Again, it all came down to this issue of workforce training being so important, both because it helps people to get a job and not go back into the prison system and also because it is a essential part of so many successful recovery programs for people who have drug and alcohol addiction and want to be able to participate in our economy. This gives them meaning and purpose in life and helps with their recovery.

I was in Knox County at a roundtable discussion. Again, in this case, it was with first responders, local elected officials, and the leadership of their mental health and recovery organization talking about their best things on dealing with the crystal meth problem. It has almost pushed the opioid problem to the second most troubling drug problem in the community. They still have overdoses from opioids. They are still concerned about that. Crystal meth has now come in with a vengeance—pure crystal meth from Mexico. Their big issue is how to get people in recovery and successful recovery. Again, the issue of job training came up. How do you give people the skills they need to get to work and then incorporate job skills in a recovery program, again, so people have a reason to turn their life around to get
back with their family. That purpose and meaning come from a job, so often.

So it was an opportunity to talk about the need for us to develop the workforce to meet the needs of our communities and the opportunity to talk about what the JOBS Act is and how important it is to pass this bill. I am really pleased that the JOBS Act is in the President’s budget this year. I thank President Trump and his administration for including that. It makes all the sense in the world. The higher education bill will be reauthorized this year, we all hope. That is certainly the plan. If that happens, it is the perfect place for having the JOBS Act included.

Senator KEANE of Virginia and I are the coauthors of this legislation. We are hopeful that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us in this legislation and help us to get it in the Higher Education Act. I know that it is a priority of many members of that committee, and Chairman ALEXANDER, in particular, has a passion for passing that we have the training we need out there to get people the jobs to let them achieve their dreams in life.

Passing the JOBS Act will give us an opportunity to help so many Americans who are looking for an opportunity to help our economy right now because just as importantly, it would enable us to fulfill our commitment to peacekeeping operations and, just as importantly, it would enable us to help our economy right now because the biggest concern I hear is no longer the taxes. People love the tax cuts and tax reform, and they love the regulatory relief, but they are looking for skilled workers. This is an opportunity. Let’s seize it. Let’s keep growing our economy and help Americans fulfill their God-given potential.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES SPECIALIST BLAKE KELLY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to continue my tribute to Nebraska. It is a tip of the hat to all the men and women who have given their lives defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each of these Nebraskans has a powerful story to tell.

Today I will reflect upon the life of Nebraska Army National Guard SPC Blake Kelly. Blake was a typical smalltown Nebraska boy. Born and raised in Shelby, NE, which has a population of just over 700, Blake lived next to the city park. His parents, Randy and Patty, have lived in the same house for 44 years.

Blake’s early life was filled with football, track, lifeguarding at the local swimming pool in the summer, band major duties, and playing the drums. In fact, he met his future wife, Christina, at band practice in 1987. He loved to play the drums, and the neighborhood, well, always knew when he was practicing.

When he was old enough to cruise around Shelby, he bought a 1976 Dodge Charger. Every smalltown Nebraska boy needs a car. Blake knew everyone around town and everyone knew him. He was always happy and eager to help someone solve a problem.

In high school, one of his teachers encouraged him to join the National Guard. For Blake, this was an opportunity to spread his wings and go to college. As an 8th grader, he asked Mr. Kelly to consider joining the National Guard’s tuition assistance program.

In 2000, between his junior and senior years in high school, he went through Army basic training at Fort Jackson, SC. By graduation in 2001, he asked Christina to marry him. After becoming engaged and graduating from high school, Blake attended advanced training at Fort Knox in Kentucky, that included Ranger training. He returned home in September 2002, just as life in the United States was changing forever following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Shortly after, Blake enrolled at Southeast Community College in Beatrice to study animal science. There he became involved with the school’s rodeo team. The year 2002 was a busy one for Blake, filled with school, National Guard training with the 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry, known as the Cav, and wedding planning. He and Christina married on September 7, 2002, just as the Cav was preparing to deploy to Bosnia.

At that time, early Active-Duty Army resources were devoted to fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, but the United States still had significant commitments to peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. The Cav’s mission was an ideal one for the National Guard and a critical element in our national security.

The Cav arrived in Bosnia in January 2003, and just before Blake left Nebraska with the unit, Christina learned that she was pregnant. In Bosnia, Blake delved into the mission at hand. He was always ready and eager to serve, and he connected well with the local population. Unit chaplains needed help, and so he embraced his Catholic faith even more deeply by becoming a Eucharistic minister and actively supporting chaplains.

On July 29, 2003, Blake was killed in an accident involving his convoy and a local vehicle. The loss of Blake was the first casualty of a deployed Nebraska Army National Guard member in over a decade. His community and the entire State were shocked.

He was buried at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in rural Nebraska on August 6, 2003. The entire town turned out for the funeral. People came from throughout Nebraska. Blake’s son Simon was born in September 2003, the month the Cav returned home from their deployment.

Today, Simon is a freshman in high school, and Christina maintains a tight relationship with Blake’s family. Randy and Patty, his parents, still live in the same house in Shelby.

In 2014, the town of Shelby dedicated a veterans’ memorial, and Blake’s family played a prominent role in the dedication ceremony. Blake’s spirit lives on, and he is remembered in so many ways.

YEMEN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a true humanitarian crisis. This is a crisis that is close to my heart, and that is because it is close to the hearts of so many wonderful people in the State of Michigan.

Michigan is home to a large and welcoming Yemeni American community—one of the Nation’s largest—and we are so proud and happy that they are part of our community. Right now, these Yemeni residents are horrified by what is happening in the country where many of them have family members and friends.

More than 4 years ago, war broke out in Yemen. Imagine 4 years of going to bed every night, wondering if this will be the night that a bomb will hit your home and destroy everything you have, including your family; 4 years of being unable to send your children to school because it is simply not safe for them to be outside; 4 years of deadly disease outbreaks with little access to medical care or even safe drinking water; perhaps worst of all, 4 years of sending your children to bed hungry every night because there is simply not enough food. It is bad enough to think about being a parent under those circumstances. Imagine what it is like to be a child. You are 4 years old. You don’t understand what is going on. You just know that you can’t go outside, you can’t sleep at night, and you are hungry all the time. There are 4-year-olds in Yemen today who have never lived in a country that wasn’t at war.

Sadly, there are 4-year-olds in Yemen today who will never see their fifth birthday. About 2,100,000 children are living in active conflict zones, meaning that a stray bullet or rocket could end their life at any moment. It is estimated that a child in Yemen dies every 10 minutes—the length of my speaking today on this floor; every 10 minutes—from a lack of food or diseases that can be prevented with adequate medical care, including vaccinations.

Overall, the United Nations estimates that no more than 2,500 Yemeni people will die within the next year due to malnutrition, dehydration, and by diseases like cholera.
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The joint session was called to order by the Acting President pro tempore, Senator McConnell of Kentucky, at 10:00 a.m., E.T.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The roll was called.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DOMINIC DIFRISCO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 1962, the airline Alitalia sent a young man named Dominic DiFrisco to Chicago to help with publicity for its inaugural flight between the city and Rome. What was a temporary assignment became a life decision for my friend Dominic. He found a home in Chicago and, in the decades following, became a champion for Chicago’s Italian community.

On Sunday, he passed away at the age of 85 after a life of celebration, stories, and love. There are so many stories of Dominic helping people that are too numerous to count here. If you grew up in Chicago, you knew Dominic.

For decades, Dominic was the most recognized and vocal supporter of Italian Americans. Dominic was born in 1933 in the Bronx of New York City to Leoluca and Antonina, immigrants from Sicily. He graduated from Fordham University in 1955 and began his career in public relations. His career was defined by building bridges between the public and private sectors. His colorful and animated understanding of Chicago-Italian history, was a staple during the broadcast of Columbus Day parades. He helped make sure other ethnic groups and Jewish Holocaust victims had roles in the Chicago Columbus Day parade. He was a man of stories. He always had one for any situation, and Columbus Day will not be the same without him.

Domestic was no timid friend to anyone he knew.

Dominic was a great friend. He was always helping people whether it was a smile, a kind word, or his latest recommendation for an Italian restaurant. His stories were legendary, but his whole life was an extraordinary story.

A few years ago, Dominic accepted my invitation to attend a joint session of Congress featuring the Prime Minister of Italy. It is fair to say many of those in the Capitol that day were as impressed with Dominic’s passion for life, his stories, and his hopefulness for the U.S.-Italian relationship as the speech itself.

The Chicago restaurant called Gene and George’s, there is a table that was Dominic’s. It was his court, and now, sadly, it is quiet. To his wife Carol and the DiFrisco family, Loretta and the DiFrisco family, Loretta and I send our sincere condolences.

CHOOSE MEDICARE ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Choose Medicare Act, which would strengthen the Affordable Care Act and help reduce healthcare costs for all Americans.

This commonsense bill would create a public healthcare option based on Medicare that would increase choice and competition in the Affordable Care Act marketplaces, including California’s state exchange, Covered California.

I would also allow the Secretary of Health Human Services to negotiate drug prices under Medicare, increase healthcare subsidies for middle-income Americans, and allow the federal government to block unreasonable health insurance rate increases.

The majority of Americans support expanding healthcare choices to achieve universal coverage and lower costs for everyone. However, too many Americans are still unable to afford a private plan that covers the care they need. The Choose Medicare Act would fix this by creating a public health insurance plan that would compete alongside private insurers in the individual and group insurance marketplaces.

Known as Medicare Part E, the public option health plan would offer comprehensive coverage and all of the benefits covered under traditional Medicare. Every doctor that accepts traditional Medicare would also be enrolled as a provider for the public health plan,
Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, on April 30, 2019, the Joint Committee on Printing organized, elected a chair, a vice chair, and adopted committee rules for the 116th Congress. Members of the Joint Committee on Printing elected Representative ZOE LOFGREN as chair and Senator ROY BLUNT as vice chair.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING—116TH CONGRESS

RULE 1.—COMMITTEE RULES

(a) The rules of the Senate and House insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the Committee.

(b) The Committee’s rules shall be published in the Congressional Record as soon as possible following the Committee’s organizational meeting in each odd-numbered year.

(c) Where these rules require a vote of the members of the Committee, polling of members either in writing or by telephone shall not be permitted to substitute for a vote taken at a Committee meeting, unless the ranking minority member assents to waiver of this requirement.

(d) Proposals for amending Committee rules shall be sent to all members at least one week before the day on which the action is taken thereon, unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent.

RULE 2.—REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House and Senate are in session. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held if there is no business to be considered and after appropriate notification is made to the ranking minority member. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair, as the Chair may deem necessary or at the request of the majority of the members of the Committee.

(b) If the Chair of the Committee is not present at any meeting of the Committee, the Vice-Chair or Ranking Member of the majority party on the Committee who is present shall preside at the meeting.

(c) Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, which is required for the purpose of closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders or changing the rules of the Committee.

(d) Three members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE 4.—PROXIES

(a) Written or telegraphic proxies of Committee members will be received and recorded on any vote taken by the Committee, except for the purpose of creating a quorum.

(b) Proxies will be allowed on any such votes for the purpose of recording a member’s position on a question even though the absentee Committee member has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that the vote be recorded.

RULE 5.—OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS

(a) Each meeting or business action of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by roll call that part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public. No such vote shall be required to close a meeting that relates solely to internal budget or personnel matters.

(b) No person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and other representatives as may authorize, shall be present in any business session that has been closed to the public.

RULE 6.—ALTERNATING CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

(a) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee shall alternate between the House and the Senate by Congresses: The senior member of the minority party in the House of Congress opposite of that of the Chair shall be the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(b) In the event the House and Senate are under different party control, the Chair and Vice-Chair shall represent the majority party in their respective Houses. When the Chair and Vice Chair represent different parties, the Vice Chair shall also fulfill the responsibilities of the Ranking Minority Member as prescribed by these rules.

RULE 7.—PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions as to the order of business and the procedures of the Committee shall be decided by the Chair, subject always to an appeal to the Committee.

RULE 8.—HEARINGS: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WITNESSES

(a) The Chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee, shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the date of the hearing unless the Committee determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chair shall make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The staff director of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) So far as practicable, all witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file written statements of proposed testimony at least 48 hours in advance of their appearance and their oral testimony shall be limited to brief summaries. Limited introductions or additional material will be received for the record, subject to the approval of the Chair.

RULE 9.—OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD

(a) An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of all Committee proceedings and actions. Brief supplemental materials when required to clarify the transcript may be inserted in the record subject to the approval of the Chair.

(b) Each member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of the hearing transcript for the purpose of correcting errors of transcription and posing questions or remarks. If any other person is authorized by a Committee Member to make
his corrections, the staff director shall be so notified.

(c) Members who have received unanimous consent to submit written questions to witnes ses shall be allowed two days within which to submit these to the staff director for transmission to the witnesses. The record may be held open for a period not to exceed two weeks awaiting the responses by wit nesses.

(d) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony at a public session, if given at an executive session, when au thorized by the Committee. Testimony re ceived in closed hearings shall not be re leased unless it is included in any report without the approval of the Committee.

RULE 10.—WITNESSES FOR COMMITTEE HEARINGS

(a) Selection of witnesses for Committee hearings shall be made by the Committee staff under the direction of the Chair. A list of proposed witnesses shall be submitted to the members of the Committee for review sufficiently in advance of the hearings to permit suggestions by the Committee members to receive appropriate consideration.

(b) The Chair shall provide adequate time for questioning of witnesses by all members, including minority Members and the minority staff director, which will not reveal the identity of such individuals.

(c) Whenever a hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any matter or matter, the minority on the Committee shall be entitled, upon unanimous request to the Chair before the completion of such hearings, to call witness es selected by the minority to testify with respect to the matter or matters during at least one day of hearing thereon.

RULE 11.—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE

The information contained in any books, papers or documents furnished to the Committee by any individual, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall, upon the request of the Chair, be furnished to the Chair, corporation or entity furnishing the same, be maintained in strict confidence by the members and staff of the Committee, except that any such information may be released outside of executive session of the Committee if the release thereof is effected in a manner which will not reveal the identity of such individual, partnership, corporation or entity in connection with any pending hearing or as a part of a duly authorized report of the Committee, or if the release is deemed essential to the performance of the functions of the Committee and is in the public interest.

RULE 12.—BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The rule for broadcasting of Committee hearings shall be the same as Rule XI, clause 4, of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 13.—COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) No Committee report shall be made public or transmitted to the Congress without the approval of a majority of the Committee except when Congress has adjourned. Provided that any member of the Committee may make a report supplementary to or dissenting from the majority report. Such supplementary or dissenting reports should be as brief as possible.

(b) Factual reports by the Committee staff may be printed for distribution to Committee members and the public only upon authorization of the Chair either with the approval of a majority of the Committee or with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member.

RULE 14.—CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

No summary of a Committee report, or state ment of conclusions concerning any investi gation shall be made by a member of the Committee or by any staff member of the Committee prior to the issuance of a report of the Committee.

RULE 15.—COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) The Committee shall have a staff director, selected by the Chair. The staff director shall be an employee of the House of Representatives of the United States.

(b) The Ranking Minority Member may designate an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate as the minority staff director.

(c) The staff director, under the general super vision of the Chair, is authorized to deal directly with agencies of the Government and with non-Government individuals on behalf of the Committee.

(d) The Chair or staff director shall timely notify the Ranking Minority Member or the minority staff director or decisions made on behalf of the Committee.

RULE 16.—COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Chair of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Committee. Specifically, the Chair is authorized, during the interim periods between meetings, to act on all requests submitted by any executive department, independent agency, temporary or permanent commissions and committees of the Federal Government, the Government Publishing Office and any other Federal entity, pursuant to the requirements of applicable Federal law and regulations.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, on April 30, 2019, the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library organized, elected a chair, a vice chair, and adopted committee rules for the 116th Congress.

Members of the Joint Committee on the Library selected Senator Roy Blunt as chair and Representative Zoe Lofgren as vice chair.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the materials ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY—116TH CONGRESS

TITLE I—MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Regular meetings may be called by the Chair, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair, as may be deemed necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Meetings of the Committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (P) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee to determine that, with respect to the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(A) will disclose information necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) will relate solely to matters of the committee personnel or internal staff management or procedures;

(C) will tend to charge an individual with a crime or misconduct that would injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy of an individual;

(D) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interest of effective law enforcement;

(E) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees;

(2) the information has been obtained by the Committee or Government agency other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to preserve the benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(F) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulation. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.)

3. Written notices of committee meetings will normally be sent by the committee's staff director to all members at least 3 days in advance. In addition, the staff director will email or telephone reminders of committee meetings to all members of the committee or to the appropriate staff assistants in their offices.

4. A copy of the committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of committee business will normally be sent to all members of the committee by the staff direc tor at least 1 day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude any member of the committee from raising appropriate non-agenda topics.

5. Any witness who is to appear before the committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the committee at least 3 business days before the date of the hearing, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the Chair may direct, unless the Chair waived such a requirement for good cause.

TITLE II—QUORUMS

1. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 4 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 2 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony; provided, however, once a quorum is established, any one member can continue to take such testimony.

3. Under no circumstances may proxies be cast for the establishment of a quorum.

TITLE III—VOTING

1. Voting in the committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

2. In the event of a tie vote, the Chair may direct that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(A) will disclose information necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;
The results of the roll call votes taken in any meeting upon a measure, or any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the committee report on that measure unless previously stated in the committee report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and the votes cast in opposition to each measure and amendment by each member of the committee. (Paragraph 7(b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and amendments before the committee. However, the vote of the committee to report a measure or matters shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members of the committee who are physically present at the time of the vote. Proxies will be allowed in such cases solely for the purpose of recording a member’s position on the question and then only in those instances when the absentee committee member has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that the vote be recorded. (Paragraph 7(a)(3) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

TITRE IV—DELEGATION AND AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Chair and Vice Chair are authorized to sign all vouchers and routine papers for which the committee's approval is required and to decide in the committee's behalf on all routine business.

The Chair is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of committee meetings and hearings.

The Chair is authorized to issue, on behalf of the committee, regulations normally promulgated by the committee at the beginning of each session.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development be printed in the RECORD. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. ALEXANDER. We run a real risk of losing our best source of carbon-free power just at a time when most Americans are increasingly worried about climate change. Nuclear power must be part of our energy future if we want clean, cheap, and reliable energy that can create good jobs and keep America competitive in a global economy.

Today 98 nuclear reactors provide about 20 percent of electricity in the United States, and 60 percent of all carbon-free electricity in the United States. But nuclear plants are closing because they cost too much to build and cannot compete with natural gas. Two reactors have announced they will retire later this year, and ten more have announced retirements by 2025.

Let’s do a little math here. If we closed those 12 reactors, that would mean a 17 percent decline in carbon-free nuclear power by 2025, which is 10 percent of carbon-free electricity. Today, solar power—despite impressive reductions in cost—provides 4 percent and wind power only 20 percent of carbon-free electricity despite billions of dollars in subsidies. To replace those 12 reactors that have announced they will close with other carbon-free energy would have to increase the entire of U.S. solar power or increase wind power by another 50 percent. If half of our existing nuclear reactors were to close, we would have to double the amount of wind energy produced and or increase the amount of solar energy produced by as much as 10 times.

Nuclear power is much more reliable than solar or wind power. It is available when the sun doesn’t shine and the wind doesn’t blow. The bottom line is, we can’t replace nuclear power with just wind and solar. We would have to use natural gas to replace nuclear power, which would increase emissions in our country.

Unfortunately, we do not need to speculate about what happens when a major industrialized country eliminates nuclear power. We have seen what happened in Japan and Germany for different reasons. Major industrialized economies similar to ours lost their emission-free, low-cost, reliable electricity. Prices went up, pollution went up, and manufacturing became less competitive in the global marketplace. And that is where we are headed in the next 10 years if we do not do something. Stakes are high.

In Japan, the cost of generating electricity increased 50 percent, which made our best source of carbon-free power even more expensive. Before 2011, Japan obtained one quarter of its electricity from nuclear. Now that number is down to 12 percent. Now Germany has cut back to a level about the same. They lose 18 percent of their electricity rates in the European Union after replacing nuclear power with wind and solar as part of an expensive cap-and-trade policy. Germany also had to buy 30 plants to meet demand, which increased emissions.

In late March, I proposed that the United States should launch a New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy, a five-year project, with Ten Grand Challenges that will use American research and technology to put our country and the world firmly on a path toward cleaner energy.

These Grand Challenges call for breakthroughs in advanced nuclear reactors, natural gas, carbon capture, better batteries, greener buildings, electric vehicles, cheaper solar, and fusion.

I put advanced reactors first on the list for a reason. To make sure nuclear power has a future in this country, we need to develop advanced reactors that have the potential to be smaller, cost less, produce less waste, and be safer than today’s reactors.

Before 2011, Germany obtained one quarter of its electricity from nuclear. Now that number is down to 12 percent. Now Germany has cut back to a level about the same. They lose 18 percent of their electricity rates in the European Union after replacing nuclear power with wind and solar as part of an expensive cap-and-trade policy. Germany also had to buy 30 plants to meet demand, which increased emissions.

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Before 2011, Germany obtained one quarter of its electricity from nuclear. Now that number is down to 12 percent. Now Germany has cut back to a level about the same. They lose 18 percent of their electricity rates in the European Union after replacing nuclear power with wind and solar as part of an expensive cap-and-trade policy. Germany also had to buy 30 plants to meet demand, which increased emissions.

As we review the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s fiscal year 2020 budget request we need to make sure the Commission has the staff and resources it needs to respond to the changing industry.

First, I would like to thank our witnesses for being here today, and also Senator FEINSTEIN, with whom I have the pleasure to work again this year to draft the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. Our witnesses today include: Kristine Svinicki, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Commissioner Jeff Baran; Commissioner Annie Caputo; and Commissioner David Wright. Commissioner Stephen Burns retired yesterday after forty years of distinguished service in nuclear regulatory affairs, so it is important that we recognize his contributions to the Commission, and these savings can be passed on to utilities’ customers. These reductions have not been arbitrary and represent the type of oversight the Senate is supposed to do. Our subcommittee has only reduced the Commission’s budget by 2 percent. The Commission has identified as unnecessary to its important safety mission.

To ensure nuclear power will continue to play a significant role in our nation’s electricity generation, I’d like to focus my remarks on four main areas:

(1) Licensing small modular and advanced reactors;

(2) Solving the nuclear waste stalemate;

(3) Safely extending licenses for existing reactors; and

(4) Maintaining adequate staffing at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Advanced reactors and small modular reactors represent the future of nuclear power. The Commission needs to be ready to review applications for new these new reactors. In fiscal year 2017, we provided enough funding to complete the Small Modular Reactor Licensing Technical Support program at the Department of Energy. NuScale, which was one of the technologies selected in that program, and an application for initial certification of a small modular reactor with the Commission in December of 2016. A utility group has been working with NuScale and Idaho National Laboratory to build and demonstrate a small modular reactor in Idaho. TVA also has an application under review for a permit to build and demonstrate a small modular reactor at the Clinch River site in Tennessee.

Licenses to build and demonstrate small modular reactors is an important step, and we need to make sure the Commission has the resources it needs to review the applications. I also understand that the Commission expects to receive an application in fiscal year 2020 for a construction and operating license for an advanced, non-light water reactor.

The fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill included $10 million for the Commission to prepare to review advanced reactor designs, and the current budget request includes $15.5 million for the Commission’s fiscal year 2020 budget request to do what the Commission plans to do with the funding Congress provided for advanced reactors so that we can make sure the development of advanced reactors move forward.

To ensure that nuclear power has a strong future in this country, we must solve the
decades’ long stalemate over what to do with used fuel from our nuclear reactors. Senator Feinstein and I have been working on solving the nuclear waste stalemate for years, and I have the opportunity to implement Senator Feinstein on her leadership and her insistence that we find a solution to this problem. The only way to break the stalemate is to make a final determination whether it is safe to build Yucca Mountain. I strongly believe that Yucca Mountain can and should be part of the solution to the nuclear waste stalemate. Federal law designates Yucca Mountain as the nation’s repository for used nuclear fuel, and the Commission’s own scientists have told us that we can safely store nuclear waste there for up to one million years.

But even if we had Yucca Mountain open today, we would still need to look for another permanent repository. We already have more than enough used fuel to fill Yucca Mountain to its legal capacity.

The quickest, and probably the least expensive, way for the federal government to start to meet its used nuclear fuel obligations is for the Department of Energy to enter into a contract with a private storage facility for used nuclear fuel.

I understand that two private companies have submitted license applications to the NRC for private consolidated storage facilities, one in Texas and one in New Mexico, and that one of these facilities is ready to contract.

I will ask the Commission’s budget reduction has steeped over the past five fiscal years. As part of its effort to reduce its budget, the Commission has limited hiring, especially entry-level hiring. We have heard from the NRC’s employees that they are currently undermanned and that only 2 percent of NRC employees are currently eligible for retirement. Four years from now, 42 percent of the Commission’s staff will be eligible for retirement. Those numbers are not a concern as long as the NRC has younger staff ready to take over the important work of the agency. But I understand that only 2 percent of NRC employees are under the age of 30.

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I look forward to working with the Commission as we begin putting together our Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2020, and also with Senator Franken, who I will now recognize for her opening statement.
as a 400-mile trip to mainland Japan turned into a 645-mile journey to the target, putting the pilots in grave danger because the planes did not have enough fuel to reach their destination. 

Lt. Col. Cole served valiantly as Lt. Col. James Doolittle’s co-pilot, and together, they led the squadron of 16 Army Air Force bombers from the Hornet to Tokyo. The squadron succeeded in bombing their target, but as predicted, his plane ran low on fuel and they were forced to bail out over China. His parachute worked, and he landed in a tree, where he spent the night and climbed down in the morning. He ultimately found some Chinese students who took him to Doolittle. After the raid, Cole went to India, helped establish the dangerous Hump flying route and flew more than 100 missions carrying cargo, earning three Distinguished Flying Crosses. The Doolittle Raiders received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 and donated it to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Ohio.

The raid provided a psychological lift back home and marked a turning point in the Pacific theater of the war. He is the only American serviceman of the 16 who served in World War II to have flown in three elite groups: the Doolittle Raiders, the Himalayan Hump Route pilots, and the 1st Air Commandos.

After retiring from a distinguished 26-year long career in the U.S. Air Force, he spent much of his time as an ambassador for the Air Force and Doolittle Raiders. He traveled the country to keep the history and legacy of the Doolittle Raiders alive and honor those who served beside him.

On April 9, Lt. Col. Cole passed away at the age of 103 years old. What an incredible life. He captured the hearts of everyone who met him, and he will forever be remembered as a hero who faithfully executed his duty for our Country.


TRIBUTE TO TREY CAMPBELL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Trey for his hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Trey is a native of Casper. He is a student at the University of Wyoming, where he is studying economics and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Trey for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID GARDNER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to David for his hard work as an intern in the Environment and Public Works Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

David is a native of Massachusetts. He is a student at American University, where he is studying interdisciplinary studies. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank David for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO ANNIE MCKINNEY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Annie for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize
President Nixon appointed him to serve on various local, State, and national committees. In 1973, President Nixon appointed him to serve on the Veterans Administration's National Rehabilitation and Education Advisory Committee, which he later went on to chair.

As a member of the American Legion, Mr. Detweiler served in a number of capacities including Department of Louisiana junior vice commander, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Foreign Relations, chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission, national vice commander, and national commander.

While serving as national commander of the American Legion, he fought for the extension of service-connected disability benefits for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. He was also involved in the planning and development of the National D-Day Museum in the heart of New Orleans, which later became the National WWII Museum.

In his most recent leadership role with the American Legion, Mr. Detweiler served as chairman of the organization's national commander-and-judge advocate committee on roles to serve migrant farm laborers known as braceros. In 1965, Genie Zavaleta and her family moved to Arizona's rapid industrialization. She was a fighter for immigration reform, advocate for the DREAM Act, and a dedicated voice for DACA recipients. Our State will miss her dearly.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Eugenia "Genie" Zavaleta, a community leader who passed away in Tempe, AZ, on April 6, 2019, at the age of 92. Genie Zavaleta was a fighter for immigration reform, advocate for the DREAM Act, and a dedicated voice for DACA recipients. Our State will miss her dearly.

Genie Zavaleta described her life's concerns as "the family, education, health care, family planning, the environment, poverty and injustice, the Presbyterian Church and the Democratic Party." Throughout her life, she served these issues through education and advocacy roles within the Presbyterian Church, the Migrant Ministry of the National Council of Churches, Planned Parenthood of Arizona, and the Maricopa County Health Department.

Her immense advocacy work within the migrant community began in 1958, when she and her husband Hector took on roles to serve migrant farm laborers known as braceros. In 1965, Genie Zavaleta and her family moved to Arizona, where she focused on helping migrant workers acquire new skills to adjust to Arizona's rapid industrialization. Eventually, Genie Zavaleta became a fierce advocate for DACA recipients and the DREAM Act.

Genie Zavaleta is survived by her husband Hector, their sons Dan and David, and their wives Nori and Linda. She will be dearly missed by other family members, friends, and the hundreds of people whose lives she touched.

Tony is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where he is majoring in political science and criminal justice. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tony for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Antonio Concepcion, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Anthony will be graduating later this week from the Mason LIFE Program with a comprehensive concentration in music appreciation and a minor concentration in recreation and leisure education. Anthony is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Anthony for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Aine Crinion, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Aine is a graduate of Brooksing High School in Brooksing, SD. Currently, she is attending Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where she is majoring in international political economy and Spanish. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Aine for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kathleen Short, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my
staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Kathlynn is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Wichita State University in Wichita, KS, where she is majoring in international studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kathlynn for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 828. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office”.

H.R. 1198. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Way in Henderson, Nevada, as the “Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1449. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3003 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the “Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office”.

H.R. 1876. An act to create an interdvisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 828. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Route 111 in Smithtown, New York, as the “Congressman Bill Carney Post Office” to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1198. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Way in Henderson, Nevada, as the “Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building” to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1449. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3003 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the “Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office” to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1876. An act to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1076. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Bacteriophage active against Xylella fastidiosa; Exemption from the Requirement of a tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1077. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal year 2010 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Air Force funds and was assigned case no. 16-02; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1078. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13121 of May 16, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1079. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; FL; Redesignation of the Nassau County Environmental Protection Authority (NCEPA) (FRL No. 9992-33-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1080. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance Document for Delineation of Non-Attainment Area to Attainment” (FRL No. 9992-33-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1081. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Commercial Radiopharmacy Licenses” (NUREG /CR/6059) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1082. A communication from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s 2019 Annual Report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1083. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner for Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled “Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1084. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled “The Department’s Activities During the Calendar Year 2016 relative to prison rape abatement”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1085. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Implicit Assumptions Related to Antideficiency Benefits” (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1086. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety and Effectiveness of Combination Antisepptic-Antimicrobial Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use” (RIN 0910-AH97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1087. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Listing of Color Additives Exempt from Certification; Synthetic Iron Oxide; Confirmation of Effective Date” (RIN 0910-AH87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1088. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1089. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from April 1, 2017, through September 30, 2017; to the Committees on the Judiciary; Select Committee on Intelligence; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1090. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from October 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017; to the Committees on the Judiciary; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1091. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from October 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017; to the Committees on the Judiciary; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1092. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on the Department’s activities under the calendar year 2016 relative to prison rape abatement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1093. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department’s activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
EC–1094. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an opinion of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas (United States v. Jumana Nagarwala et al.); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1096. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit (United States v. Soilis); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1096. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an opinion of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Miller v. Barr); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1097. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Victims Compensation Fund established by the Witness Security Reform Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1098. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled “Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act: Report to Congress and “Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Programs: Eleven Case Studies”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1100. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Emergency Interim Report: CBP Families and Children Care Panel”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1101. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacation of an opinion of Assistant Secretary/Director, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment sine die in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1102. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Expired Regulations Concerning Commerce in Firearms and Ammunition and Machine Guns, Destructive Devices, and Certain Other Firearms” (Docket No. ATF 2014R–1); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1103. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Expired Regulations” (Docket No. ATF 2017R–21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1104. A communication from the General Counsel of Veterans Affairs and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Components) to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC–1105. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Unified Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Update for Fiscal Year 2019”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 1259. A bill to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. CAS Vidny):
S. 1260. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to establish a Federal program to enable States to carry out activities to reduce administrative costs and burdens in health care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERRICKLY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBEN, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAKENEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILL BRAND, and Mr. HINOCH):
S. 1261. A bill to amend the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERRICKLY):
S. 1262. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. DAINES):
S. 1263. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

S. 1264. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to deny Federal retirement benefits to individuals convicted of child sex abuse; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 1265. A bill to amend the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act to reauthorize the Oil Region National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:
S. 1266. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect pension plans and certain annuitants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. POERTMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ШАРАПОВА, and Ms. HIRONO):
S. 1267. A bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BINKS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):
S. 1268. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that hospitals strongly support payment for the acquisition of hematopoietic stem cells under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. COONS):
S. 1269. A bill to address the threat to national security from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and associated illegal activity, to prevent the illegal trade of seafood and seafood products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):
S. 1270. A bill to provide standards for physical condition and living environments of housing receiving assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS:
S. 1271. A bill to provide for pilot programs to streamline decision-making process for weapon systems; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WITTKOUSH):
S. 1272. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 375 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DURBEN, Mr. TULLIS, and Ms. RHINGO):
S. 1273. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):
S. 1274. A bill to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBEN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):
S. 1275. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 1276. A bill to approve the settlement of lawsuits by U.S. government contractors in the Business Tax and certain allottees in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project.
relating to those water rights claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. Moran, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CORYN, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. Sanders, Mr. Coons, and Mr. Durbin):

S. Res. 179, a resolution recognizing widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. Susan, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Peters, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Carper, and Mrs. Hassan):

S. Res. 180, a resolution expressing the sense that the initiates that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. Hassan (for herself, Mr. Coryn, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Casey, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. Murkay, and Ms. Smith):

S. Res. 181, A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 8 through April 12, 2019, as “National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week” considered and agreed to.

By Mr. Perdue (for himself, Mr. Braun, Mr. Ernst, Mr. Moran, and Mr. Tillis):

S. Res. 182, A resolution recognizing the duty of the Senate to condemn Modern Monetary Theory and recognizing Modern Monetary Theory would lead to higher deficits and higher inflation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. Vanishen (for herself, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Peters, Ms. Rosen, and Mr. Lankford):

S. Con. Res. 15, A concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation of October 28, 2019, as “Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 92

At the request of Mr. Paul, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Hawley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 92, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 143

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds) was added as a cosponsor of S. 143, a bill to authorize the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to improve healthcare services for veterans in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. Thune, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robotic violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

S. 153

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds) was added as a cosponsor of S. 153, a bill to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. Daines, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 69 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. Schatz, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide advance notice to Congress before changing any questions on the decennial census, and for other purposes.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) were added as cosponsors of S. 457, a bill to require that $1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. Sullivan, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 496, a bill to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, and for other purposes.

S. 511

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) were added as cosponsors of S. 511, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 520

At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as cosponsors of S. 520, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy efficiency materials pilot program.

S. 659

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Paul) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, a bill to provide for certain additional requirements with respect to patent disclosures.

S. 703

At the request of Mrs. Feinstein, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 703, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to address health, safety, and environmental hazards at private military housing units, to prohibit the payment by members of the Armed Forces of deposits or other fees relating to such housing units, and for other purposes.

S. 749

At the request of Mr. King, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and make fully refundable the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, to increase the maximum amount excludable from gross income for employer-provided dependent care assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 753

At the request of Ms. Harris, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a cosponsor of S. 753, a bill to require carbon monoxide detectors in certain federal assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 760

At the request of Mr. Peters, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 760, a bill to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Ms. Hassan, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to protect students of institutions of higher education and the taxpayer investment in institutions of higher education by improving oversight and accountability of institutions of higher education, particularly for profit colleges, improving protections for students and borrowers, and ensuring the integrity of postsecondary education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms.
Hirono) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. Van Hollen, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Grassley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer’s disease.

S. 905

At the request of Mr. Tillis, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) was added as a cosponsor of S. 905, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize a national network of Statewide senior legal hotlines, and for other purposes.

S. 906

At the request of Mr. Burr, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a cosponsor of S. 906, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 908

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA–PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 997

At the request of Ms. Warren, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. Hawley, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela’s political crisis, to address Venezuela’s economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, and for other purposes.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. Manchin, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) were added as cosponsors of S. 1081, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1106

At the request of Ms. Harris, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1106, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for a credit against tax for rent paid on the personal residence of the taxpayer.

S. 1118

At the request of Ms. Warren, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1118, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize the expansion of service members who incur a catastrophic injury or illness or die while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mr. Daines, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a child tax credit for pregnant moms with respect to their unborn children.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1194, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an electronic health record.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. Harris) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1196, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 1196

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen), the Senator from Florida (Mr. Scott) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) were added as cosponsors of S. 1195, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumption relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1208

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. Durbin, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1241, a bill to expand the private right of action under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act for calls in violation of the Do Not Call rules.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1246, a bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. Coons, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

S. RES. 99

At the request of Mr. Peters, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 99, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

S. RES. 102

At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 102, a resolution designating April 2019 as “Second Chance Month.”

S. RES. 112

At the request of Mr. Boozman, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 112, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Durbin (for himself, Mr. Rubio, and Ms. Duckworth):

S. 1276. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risks of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
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 “Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. FLOOD MAPPING MODERNIZATION AND HOMEOWNER EMPOWERMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COASTAL.—The term “coastal” means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that the unit borders a body of water that—

(A) is more than 2,000 square miles in size; and

(B) is not a river.

(3) PELAGIC.—The term “pelagic” means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that—

(A) the unit is a coastal unit; and

(B) the body of water that the unit borders—

(i) is more than 2,000 square miles in size; and

(ii) is a large, open body of water, including a bay or a gulf, that empties into an ocean.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot program” means the pilot program carried out by the Administrator under this section.

(5) URBAN FLOODING.—The term “urban flooding” means—

(A) the inundation, by water, of property in a built environment, particularly in a densely populated area, that—

(i) is caused by falling rain—

(I) collecting on an impervious surface; or

(II) increasing the level of a body of water that is located near that built environment; and

(ii) overwhelms the capacity of drainage systems in the built environment, such as storm sewers;

(B) the backup of water through a sewer pipe, shower, toilet, sink, or floor drain;

(iii) the seepage of water through a wall or a floor;

(iv) the accumulation of water on property or a public right-of-way; and

(v) the overflow from a body of water, such as a river, lake, or ocean; and

(C) does not include flooding in an undeveloped or agricultural area.

(6) URBANIZED AREA.—The term “urbanized area” means an area that has been defined and urbanized under section 1303(a) of the Department of Commerce and the Bureau of the Census during the most recently completed decennial census.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall consider in awarding grants to units of local government to achieve the objectives described in paragraph (a) the following:

(1) enhance the production of maps relating to urban flooding and associated property damage; and

(2) increase the availability of the maps described in paragraph (1) to homeowners, business owners, and other potential users, to enable those users to avoid the risk of urban flooding.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—Amounts from grants made under the pilot program may be used only to carry out activities that meet the following objectives:

(1) Developing a methodology for assessing the risk of urban flooding through the deployment of technology-based mapping tools that—

(A) are easily understandable by the public; and

(B) effectively convey information regarding the level of flood risk.

(2) Providing specific projections of annual chance flood frequency.

(3) Providing structure-based flood risk assessments.

(4) Providing program design for the mitigation of the risk of urban flooding.

(5) Incorporating information regarding climate trends into urban flooding risk assessments.

(6) Making the information described in this subsection publicly available on the internet through a web-based portal so as to increase transparency regarding homeowner flood risks.

(d) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under the pilot program may be made only to—

(A) a unit of general local government that is located in an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals; or

(B) a metropolitan stormwater management authority of a unit of general local government, that previously received a grant under the pilot program.

(2) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—To be eligible for a grant under the pilot program, a unit of general local government must—

(A) submit an application in such form and content as the Administrator shall require; and

(B) be a coastal unit or a unit of general local government if the stormwater management agency for that unit previously received a grant under the pilot program.

(3) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a stormwater management authority that operates with respect to more than one unit of general local government, the application of that authority shall be considered for purposes of paragraph (2) of this subsection and clause (i) of paragraph (c) (II) of this section (c).

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to limit the application of the provisions of this section (c).
(l) DURATION.—The Administrator shall require each recipient of a grant under the pilot program to complete the activities described in subsection (c), which shall be, subject to subsection (b)(2), carried out over the grant amounts, not later than 18 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts, under the pilot program.

(j) USE OF CENSUS DATA.—The Administrator shall make all determinations regarding population under the pilot program by using data from the most recently completed decennial census by the Bureau of the Census.

(k) GRANTEE REPORTS TO FEMA.—Each recipient of a grant under the pilot program shall, not later than 18 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts, submit to the Administrator a report that describes—

(1) the activities carried out with the grant amounts;

(2) how the activities carried out with the grant amounts have met the objectives described in paragraph (a); and

(3) any lessons learned in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2); and

(4) any recommendations for future mapping approaches regarding the construction of property data used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(l) BIENNIAL REPORTS BY FEMA.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, until the date on which all activities carried out with amounts from grants under the pilot program are completed, the Administrator shall submit a report to Congress and make available to the public on an internet website a report that—

(1) describes—

(A) the progress of the activities carried out with amounts from those grants; and

(B) the effectiveness of technology-based mapping tools used in carrying out the activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) with respect to the final report that the Administrator is required to submit under this subsection, includes recommendations to Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government for implementing strategies, practices, and technologies to mitigate the effects of urban flooding.

(m) FUNDING.—It is the sense of Congress that, because the pilot program is limited with respect to scope and resources, communities that participate in the pilot program should acknowledge that the most successful strategies to mitigate the effects of urban flooding—

(1) take a structural-based mitigation approach with respect to construction, which includes—

(A) recognizing any post-storm damage that may occur; and

(B) using design techniques that proactively minimize future flood damage;

(2) make individuals in the community aware, through any cost-effective and available means of education, of the best approaches regarding the construction of properties that are able to survive floods, which reduces the cost of future repairs; and

(3) encourage home and property owners to consider the measures described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which are the most cost-effective and prudent ways to reduce the impact of stormwater by constructing or renovating building components.

(n) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under the pilot program—

(1) $1,200,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

(2) $4,300,000 for fiscal year 2021, to remain available through 2023.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 179—RECOGNIZING EVIDENCING THREATS TO FREEDOMS OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD, REAFFIRMING THE CENTRALITY OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS TO THE HEALTH OF DEMOCRACY, AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY ON MAY 3, 2019

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CORYN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations S. Res. 179

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly on December 10, 1948, states in paragraph 3, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day”—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press; and

(2) to evaluate freedom of the press around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/163 on the safety of journalists and the problem of impunity, which unequivocally condemns all attacks on, and violence against, journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, forced disappearance, forced detention, disinformation, intimidation and harassment in conflict and non-conflict situations;

Whereas, the World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2019 is “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Democracy in Times of Disinformation”;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who recognized the importance of the press in a constitutional republic, wisely declared, "...were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-116; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), which the Senate passed by 99-0, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day”—

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Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who recognized the importance of the press in a constitutional republic, wisely declared, "...were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-116; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), which the Senate passed by unanimous consent and President Barack Obama signed into law in 2010, expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual country reports on human rights practices of the Department of State;

Whereas the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders, warns “The number of countries regarded as safe, where journalists can work in complete security, continues to decline, while authoritarian regimes tighten their grip on the media.”;

Whereas, Freedom House’s publication “Freedom in the World 2019” noted that global freedom of expression has declined each year for the past 13 years; and

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2018—

(1) at least 54 journalists were killed around the world for their work, of which at least 34 were singled out because of their journalism;

(2) the 2 deadliest countries for journalists on assignment were Afghanistan and Syria; and

Whereas journalist Mimi Mefo Takambou was jailed for spreading false news, which is a rising trend in Cameroon and elsewhere around the world;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 26 journalists were killed in Honduras since 2007, making it one of the most deadly countries for journalists in the Americas; and

Whereas the American journalist Leonardo Gabriel Hernandez was murdered in March 2019 after receiving threats related to his work;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 26 journalists were killed in Honduras since 2007, making it one of the most deadly countries for journalists in the Americas; and

Whereas the American journalist Leonardo Gabriel Hernandez was murdered in March 2019 after receiving threats related to his work;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 26 journalists were killed in Honduras since 2007, making it one of the most deadly countries for journalists in the Americas; and

Whereas the American journalist Leonardo Gabriel Hernandez was murdered in March 2019 after receiving threats related to his work;
have been killed since December 2018 on charges of fomenting hate, spreading fake news, and terrorism, and prominent jour-
nalists Carlos Fernando Chamorro has fled the country, and journalist Daniel Ortega cracks down on free expression in a bid to si-
ence dissent and end the protests against him;

Whereas in Mexico, which remains the most dangerous country in the Western Hemispher for journalists—
(1) murders, death threats, and legal im-
punity for journalists to self censor their re-
porting out of fear; and
(2) Rafael Murúa Manríquez was abducted and murdered in January 2019 after reporting threats from an official in the municipal government for critical reporting;

Whereas Slovakian journalist Jan Kuciak and his partner Martina Kušnírova were murdered in February 2018, allegedly in re-
tailiation for his investigative reporting of tax fraud in connection to a businessman with close ties to Slovakia’s ruling party, where the perpetrator awaits trial, just 4 months after the murder of another Euro-
pean journalist, Malta’s Daphne Caruana Galizia famous for her reporting on corruption;

Whereas the world’s growing cadre of eth-
cal and hard-hitting investigative jour-
nalists, including those contributing to the Or-
ganized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project—
(1) adhere to the highest professional standards;
(2) recover abuses and corruption being committed in their own countries; and
(3) deserve the international community’s support and praise for taking on the risky job of accountability and trans-
parency in their respective countries;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assis-
tance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Radio y Television Martí, and the Middle East Broadcast Networks—
(1) which report and broadcast news, informa-
tion, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and
(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work;

Whereas freedom of the press—
(1) is a key component of democratic gov-
ernance, activism in civil society, and eco-
socio-economic development and
(2) enhances public accountability, trans-
parency, and participation in civil society and democratic governance:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) expresses concern about threats to free-
dom of the press and free expression around the world on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2019;
(2) commends journalists and media work-
ers around the world despite threats to their safety, for their essential role in—
(A) promoting government accountability;
(B) defending democratic activity; and
(C) strengthening civil society,

(3) pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work;
(4) calls on governments abroad to imple-
m, the United Nations General Assembly Res-
solution 163 (2013) by thoroughly inves-
tigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, includ-
ing murder and attempted killings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(5) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;
(6) denounces the denial of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Gov-
ernment to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance do-
mestically and around the world; and
(7) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—
(A) to preserve and build upon the lead-
ership of the United States on issues relating to freedom of the press, on the basis of the protections afforded the American people under the Constitution of the United States;
(B) to improve the rapid identification, pub-
lication, and response by the United States Government to threats against free-
dom of the press around the world;
(C) to urge foreign governments to trans-
parently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and
(D) to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press in the annual country reports on human rights practices of the Department of State and through diplo-
matic channels.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, free-
dom of the press is a fundamental human right, a foundational pillar of democracy, and an indispensable check on authoritarian overreach. Today, press freedom is under assault across the globe—including in the United States. As journalists fight to advance truth and objectivity, far too many governments and actors are targeting them, seeking to thwart their efforts to promote transparency and accountability and expose abuses of power. Their focus on attacking journalists indeed serves to highlight the critical need for press freedom around the globe.

Since 2009, 659 journalists and media workers have been killed in connection with their efforts to report and dis-
seminate news and information. Sto-
ries of abuses of government power, of human suffering, of environ-
mental disasters, and stories of the remarkable resilience of people abused and op-
pressed. 2018 marked the worst year on record for deadly violence and abuse toward journalists, with murders, impr
isonment, hostage-taking, and en-
faced disappeared among the ranks of journalists.

Slovak journalist Jan Kuciak and his partner Martina Kušnírova were gunned down in their home after inves-
tigating organized crime in his country and in alleged retaliation for his re-
porting of tax fraud on a businessman with close ties to Slovakia’s ruling party, a stark reminder of the danger reporters sometimes face when investigat-
ing corruption at the highest levels.

Just over a year ago, in the deadliest day for Afghanistan’s media since the start of the war, nine journalists were killed in a second-wave suicide bomb-
ing in Kabul, and another was shot 
dead in the eastern city of Khost, a sign of the constant threat against the fundamental elements of a free, secure, and democratic Afghanistan.

Last October, at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Washington Post columnist and U.S. resident Jamal Khoshoggi was brutally murdered by a group of officials acting on behalf of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salma, showing the reach of political oppression and the silencing of dissent.

In many cases, crimes carried out against the media go unpunished—this includes murder, the ultimate form of censorship. According to the Commit-
tee to Protect Journalists, in nine out of 10 cases where a journalist has been targeted for murder, the perpe-
trator goes free, reflecting widespread impunity in this space.

In 2018, across the world 251 journalist remained imprisoned on charges related to their reporting. 5

Leyton Prize-winning reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who were arrested after exposing the massacre of ten Rohingya men in a village in Rakhine State. In Nicaragua, Miguel Mora and Lucia Pineda Ubau, directors of the country’s only 24-hour cable news net-
work, were jailed on charges of fomenting hate, spreading fake news, and ter-
morism. In the Philippines, beyond threats to journal-
ists themselves, governments across the world from Poland to Sudan con-
tinue to pursue legislative efforts to re-
striction media freedom and free expres-
sion, ultimately weakening the ability of citizens to hold governments accountable. In Bangladesh, photo-
journalist and human rights advocate Shahidul Alam faced torture and spent 107 days in prison for violating a law that forbids criticism of the govern-
ment on digital platforms in his native Bangladesh. One of several journalists who were named Time’s Person of the Year in 2018 for being one of “the guardians” in the face of the “war on truth,” he expressed that journalist is under threat. Whether you’re a teacher, a dancer, a painter, or a journalist, each one of us needs to be constantly fighting.

But the threat to press freedom isn’t limited to foreign lands—it is something we’ve had to increasingly con-
tend with here at home in the United States. President Trump continues to employ dangerous rhetoric in targeting the media, referring to the free press as the “enemy of the people” while fostering an environment of hostility to-
ward journalists. Moreover, he refuses to hold autocratic world leaders ac-
countable as they attack press freedom in brazen ways, including targeting AlJazeera journalists like Egypt. This only adds to the deteriora-
tion in free expression throughout the world. As a recent report from Report-
ers Without Borders highlights, “The number of countries regarded as safe, with workers who are free to practice their profession without fear of intimidation or reprisal, continues to decline, while authoritarian regimes continue to tighten their grip on the media.”
In spite of the unprecedented assault on the free press, journalists continue to take significant risks in the pursuit of truth and transparency. Journalists from Radio Free Asia have relentlessly covered the Chinese government’s gross human rights abuses against the country’s Uyghur minority, including mass internment and surveillance in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). If not for the work of these courageous reporters—many of whom are Uyghurs themselves, having to report on abuses enacted against their families and friends—Chinese authorities would be able to commit such abuses largely in secrecy. Instead, those who champion human rights will be able to use the reporting in order to hold this repressive government to account.

Over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers had the foresight to recognize the importance of a free press to a fledging democracy, enshrining it in our first amendment. Today, this fundamental right of free expression and free press I join the international community in honoring and defending freedom of expression and the brave journalists seeking to tell a story that deserves to be told. In fact, the very fact the repressive, autocrats, and thugs continue to attack journalists is a tragic testament to the critical work they do. Just yesterday, the Maduro government in Venezuela took CNN off the air while the network was broadcasting live video of protestors being run over by military vehicles in Caracas, a transparent attempt by a criminal regime to silence journalists telling the story of brave Venezuelans standing up for their democratic aspirations.

The week of May 5 through May 11, 2019, is known as World Press Freedom Day. This year, I introduced a resolution commemorating World Press Freedom Day. The resolution highlights increasing threats to freedoms of the press and expression worldwide, reaffirms the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reiterates freedom of the press as a priority of the United States in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance. On this World Press Freedom Day, I call on the Trump administration to reverse course and recommit to advancing press freedom—both at home and abroad.

WHEREAS the week of May 5 through May 11, 2019, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor the dedicated public servants of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

WHEREAS the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

WHEREAS the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

WHEREAS public servants—

(1) support the designation of the week of May 5 through May 11, 2019, as “Public Service Recognition Week”;

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and its ideals and deserve the appreciation of the United States and the world;

(3) have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals and deserve the appreciation of the United States and the world;

(4) have fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals and deserve the appreciation of the United States and the world;

(5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), including entitlements under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(8) ensure access to those who meet the needs of the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve the quality of life for all Americans;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

WHEREAS members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) for the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) to further United States national policy and national interests; and

(3) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

WHEREAS public servants work in a profession committed to building relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and the ideals of the United States;

WHEREAS public servants are members of the United States and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and dangers to public health;
and early intervention services to reduce barriers to learning;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel work with teachers, school leaders, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to promote student and school success;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide educational, social, emotional, and behavioral interventions and activities that support—

(1) student learning;

(2) the development of social skills by students;

(3) the physical wellness of students;

(4) the physical development of students; and

(5) the behavioral, emotional, and mental health of students;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel serve all students who struggle with barriers to learning; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 8 through April 12, 2019, as “National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week”; and

(2) recognizes that specialized instructional support personnel implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes;

(3) commends—

(A) those individuals who work as specialized instructional support personnel; and

(B) the individuals and organizations that support the efforts made by specialized instructional support personnel to promote and improve the availability of specialized instructional support services;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together to raise awareness of the importance of specialized instructional support personnel in school climate and education efforts;

(5) recognizes the important role of specialized instructional support personnel in efforts to improve mental health, reduce drug use, and improve overall community safety for students; and

(6) encourages experts to share best practices so that others can replicate the success of those experts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 182—RECOGNIZING THE DUTY OF THE SENATE TO CONDEMN MODERN MONETARY THEORY AND RECOGNIZING MODERN MONETARY THEORY WOULD LEAD TO HIGHER DEFICITS AND HIGHER INFLATION

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. Res. 182

Whereas noted economists from across the political spectrum have warned that the implementation of Modern Monetary Theory (referred to in this preamble as “MMT”) would pose a clear danger to the economy of the United States;

Whereas, on March 4, 2019, former Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence H. Summers said that—

(1) MMT is fallacious at multiple levels;

(2) past and present point, MMT leads to hyperinflation; and

(3) a policy of relying on a central bank to finance government deficits, as advocated by MMT theorists, would likely result in a collapsing exchange rate;

Whereas, on February 26, 2019, Jerome Powell, Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, said: “The idea that deficits don’t matter for countries that can borrow in their own currency I think is just wrong!”;

Whereas, on March 25, 2019, Janet Yellen, former Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, disagreed with those individuals promoting MMT who suggest that “you don’t have to worry about interest-rate payments because the central bank can buy the debt”; stating: “That’s a very wrongheaded idea because that’s how you get hyper-inflation”;

Whereas the March 2019 report entitled “How Reliable is Modern Monetary Theory as a Guide to Policy?” by Scott Sumner and Patrick Horan of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University found that:

(1) MMT—

(A) has a flawed model of inflation, which overstates the importance of economic slack;

(B) overestimates the revenue that can be earned from the creation of money;

(C) overestimates the potency of fiscal policy, while underestimating the effectiveness of monetary policy;

(D) overestimates the ability of fiscal authorities to control inflation; and

(E) contains too few safeguards against the risks of excessive public debt; and

(2) an MMT agenda of having fiscal authorities manage monetary policy would run the risk of—

(A) very high debts;

(B) very high inflation; or

(C) very high debts and very high inflation, each of which may be very harmful to the broader economy;

Whereas the January 2019 report entitled “Modern Monetary Theory and Policy” by Stan Veuger of the American Enterprise Institute warned that “hyperinflation is a real risk” when a government attempts to pay for massive spending by printing money; and

Whereas the September 2018 report entitled “On Empty Purses and MMT Rhetoric” by George Selgin of the Cato Institute warned that—

(1) when it comes to the ability of Congress to rely on the Treasury to cover expenditures, Congress is, in 1 crucial respect, more constrained than household or business is when that household or business relies on a bank to cover expenditures because, if Congress is to avoid running out of money, Congress cannot write checks in amounts exceeding the balances in the general account of the Treasury; and

(2) MMT theorists succeed in turning otherwise banal truths about the workings of modern economic systems into novel policy pronouncements that, although tautological, are false: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous; and

(2) recognizes—

(A) that the implementation of Modern Monetary Theory would lead to higher deficits and higher inflation; and

(B) the duty of the Senate to condemn Modern Monetary Theory.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 15—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 28, 2019, AS “HONORING THE NATION’S FIRST RESPONDERS DAY”

Mr. WARREN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. Con. Res. 15

Whereas first responders include professional and volunteer fire, police, emergency medical technician, and paramedic workers in the United States;

Whereas, according to a 2017 compilation of data on the Emergency Services Sector in the United States by the Department of Homeland Security, “The first responder community comprises over 4.6 million career and volunteer professionals within five primary disciplines: Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue Services, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, and Public Works.”;

Whereas first responders deserve to be recognized for their commitment to safety, defense, and honor; and

Whereas October 28, 2019, would be an appropriate day to establish as “Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the designation of October 28, 2019, as “Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day”; and

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of first responders; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the contributions of first responders in the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Policy principles for a Federal data privacy framework.”

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.
S2577

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Humanitarian impact in the Syrian war.”

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Christopher Scoles, of New York, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 180) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the resolution of S. Res. 181, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 181) expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The preamble was agreed to.

(Ordinary Resolutions.)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 2; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Ruiz nomination under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:18 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 1, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

J. CAMPBELL BARKER, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

ANDREW LYNN BRASHER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA.
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
AND AMERICAN SAMOA COLLEGE
ACCESS ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa College Access Act, which would authorize tuition assistance grants to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition costs for Northern Marianas and American Samoa community college graduates seeking to attend a four-year public university.

The importance of having an educated citizenry is a bedrock principle of our nation and has been since our founding. And in today’s competitive job market, a postsecondary education is increasingly becoming a critical necessity for obtaining a decent job with a decent wage.

The Northern Mariana Islands has only been part of America for forty years. We understand well that education is key to our continued growth, but the reality is that household incomes in the Northern Marianas are less than half the national median. The U.S. territory of American Samoa is in similar economic straits. Poverty and unemployment rates there are among the highest in the country.

I believe the best way to improve economic conditions in these territories is to improve the educational opportunities of our residents. Unfortunately, however, neither the Northern Marianas nor American Samoa has a four-year institution of higher education. In fact, they are the only two congressional districts in the country without a public four-year college or university. Each has an accredited community college, but academic offerings are substantially limited.

Students from these U.S. territories wanting the advantages of a four-year university in another state or territory face significant financial difficulties. Resident students spend an average of $14,480 in out-of-state tuition and fees more than their resident peers at public four-year colleges, according to College Board. And many students in the Marianas and American Samoa wanting to attend a four-year university not only face the cost of nonresident tuition, but also the significant expense of travel. The Marianas are over 3,700 miles from the nearest state, Hawaii—a $1,100 one-way trip by plane. American Samoa to Hawaii is over 2,500 miles, over $800 one-way.

The bill follows the model of P.L. 106-98, the DC College Access Act, which allows students residing in the District of Columbia to apply for grants to help pay the cost of attending colleges outside D.C., but much smaller in scope and cost. It creates a program through which public four-year schools in the 50 states, D.C., and other U.S. territories may be reimbursed for offering in-state tuition to undergraduate students from the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

The gentrilead from American Samoa, Mrs. Radevangen, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and help give students from the Northern Marianas and American Samoa the means needed to make their educational dreams a reality.

HONORING ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I proudly honor Essex County College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Over the past half-century, Essex County College has helped educate and enlighten thousands of students from New Jersey and across the country.

Essex County College opened in 1968 to more than 3,000 students. By 1970, the school needed a new campus and was relocated to what we now call University Heights in the Central Ward of Newark—across the street from my congressional district office. Essex County College has grown and expanded across the community in the decades since it opened. Today, Essex County College has more than 13,000 students across its degree, certificate, and job training programs.

Throughout the 1970s and continuing today, Essex County College has invested in local communities. The school has opened and operated extension campuses throughout Essex County. It provides off-campus educational services like the popular Saturday Youth Programs. Essex County College helps students enter the workplace with marketable skills.

Essex County College has provided a foundation of education for generations of students. Through leadership and community investment, Essex County College is leading the way toward greater opportunity. Under President Anthony Munroe, I know that Essex County College will continue to flourish for years to come. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

HONORING MAJOR CHRISTOPHER PETRANCOSTA

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Major Christopher Vincent Petracosta of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation. Major Petracosta will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison to the House of Representatives to attend Army Intermediate Level Education with follow on assignment at Fort Drum.

A native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, Chris is a third generation Army Soldier, continuing a proud family tradition of service to this nation. Chris attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 2007. He has held numerous leadership and staff assignments in a variety of units, highlighted by operational and combat deployments to Haiti, Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, and Niger during service with the 82nd Airborne Division and First Infantry Division. During his time in Washington, Chris earned a Masters in Policy Management from Georgetown University and worked as a Political Military Planner within the Joint Staff’s Transregional Threats Coordination Cell.

In 2018, Major Petracosta was selected to serve as a Congressional Liaison in the United States Army House Liaison Division. As the primary liaison between Members of the House of Representatives and their staffs, committees, and the Army, he provided insight and understanding of Army policies, actions, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of the military, its culture, and traditions has been a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. This previous Christmas, I traveled with Chris to the Middle East to visit our servicemembers and better understand the region. Chris’ extensive experience in the region enabled a productive visit for myself and other Members of Congress. I found him to be a thoughtful, intelligent, and dedicated Soldier in the best traditions of America’s Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Chris during his time as an Army Congressional Liaison Officer in the House of Representatives. On behalf of a grateful nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Major Christopher Petracosta, his wife, Stacia, and their children, Tatum and Maryn. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in the United States Army, and continue to dedicate their lives to the service of our nation.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT DAVID JOHN REZZO

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, our brave men and women of the Armed Forces continuously make sacrifices to keep our nation strong and free. Among the ranks is Lieutenant David John Rezzo, who I want to recognize today for his eight years of service in the United States Navy.

Lieutenant Rezzo currently serves as a Requirements Officer for Undersea Networks in the Pentagon. He entered the United States

* * * * *  
This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Navy in 2011 and has served in numerous assignments and deployments throughout his distinguished career.

Lieutenant Rezzo has shown not only outstanding leadership skills, but also uncommon technical prowess. Over the course of six months as a Junior Officer on the USS Char- lotte, he safely supervised the entire ship's watch team during surface and submerged operations and managed the maintenance of an attack submarine's mechanical systems. He also achieved certification from the United States Department of Energy to assume overall responsibility of a US Naval Nuclear Power Plant.

Since November 2016, Lieutenant Rezzo has led a major revision of the Undersea Warfare Division's strategic plan, articulating future investment areas to industry, fleet users, program offices and other stakeholders with the aim of maintaining undersea dominance. He continues to coordinate plans to transition high-end asset programs that expand reliable communications throughout the maritime domain.

Most recently, Lieutenant Rezzo was also working on facilitating a $150 million-dollar rapid acquisition effort to expand maritime surveillance worldwide in support of a critically important Chief of Naval Operations directive. Most recently, he served on behalf of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District I commend my constituent, Lieutenant David John Rezzo on his years of devoted service to the United States of America and ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing him.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. ALEXANDER P. STONE

HON. JERRY McNERNEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Dr. Alexander P. Stone.

Dr. Stone was a patient teacher, a mathematical scholar and creator, and a true gentleman. Under his guidance, his students learned more than the fundamentals of calculus and how to solve differential equations on curved surfaces of arbitrary dimension—he also instilled in all of us a deep appreciation for the beauty of abstract mathematical thought.

Dr. Stone held the admiration and respect of all those around him. His breadth of knowledge was clear, and so was his determination as a mathematical mentor to make sure that his students had the instruction and personal attention they needed to excel. He never belittled anyone for asking what may have seemed a trivial or obvious question and went out of his way to put students at ease during casual conversations as well as in high stakes exams. He celebrated with us as we made new mathematical discoveries that led to our growth and success.

Alex was also a devoted father, which was a rare combination of great kindness in addition to great knowledge. He touched the lives of all who entered his classroom, and he will be missed.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, today is National Decision Day. It is an exciting time of year for students as they commit to colleges across the United States. I rise to speak in support of the international scholars who choose to attend our American academic institutions. Their presence in the U.S. is an asset to our country's culture and economy.

While the Department of State's annual Open Doors report states that the United States is still the top location for international students, a concerning statistic shows that new international student enrollment declined by 6.6 percent during the 2017–2018 school year.

The congressional district I represent greatly benefits from international student enrollment in our local colleges and universities. In addition to their intellectual and research contributions, these students make an annual financial contribution of $52.2 million dollars and support the creation of several hundred jobs each year.

We're at risk of losing this valuable talent and the benefits they bring to the residents of New York's 16th District. But it's not just my district that will suffer—the entire country will. Although they only make up 5.5 percent of higher education enrollment in the United States, the economic value that international students have on our economy is significant. In the 2017–2018 academic year alone, international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contributed $39 billion to the U.S. economy and supported over 450,000 jobs. For every seven international students enrolled, three U.S. jobs are created and supported through spending in the higher education, health insurance, and transportation sectors, among others.

International education doesn't just foster economic benefits; it advances learning and scholarship. Students want to come to the United States because they know that this country has some of the world's greatest educational opportunities. However, as a result of delays in processing student visas in recent years, many international scholars have decided not to study in other countries, such as Canada and Australia, which have more welcoming policies. As a result, our country is missing out on incredible talent, and students are foregoing the opportunity to study in one of the best education systems in the world.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I am grateful for the work international students are doing every day to strengthen ties with countries around the world. International education develops cultural understanding and respect among different peoples.

We need to send the message that international students and scholars who want to study in the United States are welcome. I urge my colleagues to work with me in ensuring that the United States continues to be the world's best destination for academic study.

HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an Ohio-based drug store chain, Discount Drug Mart on their 50th Anniversary. Small businesses are the heart of America. They not only create jobs and opportunities, but engineer vibrant communities to live and raise our families in.

Like many small businesses in our country, Discount Drug Mart was established after somebody took a risk and poured their heart and soul into a visionary product. In 1969, Parviz Boodjah opened the first Discount Drug Mart in Elyria, Ohio, combined a retail store with the personal care of a Pharmacists office. By integrating disease management and screening services with necessities and convenience items, Discount Drug Mart has influenced businesses around the globe and continues to support thousands of Ohioans today.

Boodjah's leadership and compassionate touch have helped his family expand to over 70 stores and operate in over 20 Ohio counties. Discount Drug Mart, Inc., serves as a model for the American Dream and an example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to this valued business and celebrate with them for over a half-century of service to our communities.

ENCOURAGING GREATER PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

SPEECH OF
HON. J. FRENCH HILL
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 20, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this article regarding H. Res. 327 Encouraging Greater Public-Private Sector Collaboration to Promote Financial Literacy for Students and Young Adults.

(From the Democrat-Gazette, April 8, 2019)

NO MONEY TREK
(By Robert Hopkins)

At an age when children are busy playing with their new Legos or asking for Happy Meals, they’re also forming early and foundational ideas about earning, saving and spending that may carry with them throughout their lives. April is Financial Literacy Month, so it’s a good time to discuss why it is important that we teach personal finance and economics to young children.

Children often develop their financial behaviors as early as 7 years of age, according to research by David Whitebread and Sue Bingham of the University of Cambridge in England. So waiting until students are in
high school to teach personal finance and economics can mean missing valuable opportunities to help them learn and shape their habits. And it leaves children, during very impressionable years, more apt to construct their understanding of the economy and personal finance from what they observe around them.

This frequently results in misunderstandings.

For example, children who see their parents get money from an ATM may not have the context to understand that a bank account is directly connected to the use of the ATM. Without this context, a child hearing, “We can’t afford that this month,” is likely to think, “Just go get money out of the machine.”

Similarly, children may witness an adult paying for most items with a credit card or a mobile phone payment service without recognizing this as money being spent. And often children don’t connect your work with income; they may not realize that adults work and are paid for that work.

At the St. Louis Fed, we have a team of educators, researchers and specialists who are making economic education more accessible and creating fun and memorable lessons and resources for teachers, parents and consumers around the country. In the spirit of Financial Literacy Month, that team has compiled six pertinent things we must teach children:

1. People work to earn income. Be explicit when explaining to children that you work to earn money to support your family. Give them opportunities to earn as well.
2. People spend some income, save some income, and donate some income. Give the children in your life opportunities to do this—spend, save, donate.
3. Saving is a good habit. Provide incentives for your children to save, such as offering to match a percentage of what they put in their piggy banks. Encourage them to save a set amount before considering purchasing a new toy.
4. Adults can’t have everything they want—children can’t, either. Teach them to prioritize and make careful choices.
5. Spending and saving decisions have consequences. Allow your children to live with—and talk to them about—those consequences.
6. Banks are safe places to save your money. Tell children about them, including that those institutions pay interest on savings.

When I was younger, I tried to share such personal tips with my children, and still do today. We believe, based on research, that children who are taught valuable lessons about spending, saving and other personal finance topics at a young age are more likely to become adults who are more financially responsible.

Share the personal finance tips in this article with your children, grandchildren, students and the other young people in your life. Research shows it may help them grow into teenagers and adults with a better grasp on their personal finances.

Robert Hopkins is senior vice president and regional executive of the Little Rock Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

IN RECOGNITION OF IAN WARDOPPER

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

MRS. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the

CIVITAS 2019 honoree, Ian Wardopper. Mr. Wardopper is the Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Frick Collection, one of the great cultural institutions of the 12th Congressional District and one of the most renowned museums and research centers in the world.

The Frick Collection is the premier assemblages of Old Master paintings and European sculpture and decorative arts begun by the American industrialist Henry Clay Frick in his former Fifth Avenue home. Additionally, the Frick Collection building is one of only a few extant Gilded Age mansions in New York City.

The museum opened in 1935 and has continued to expand its collection to the benefit of countless New Yorkers and visitors from around the world. In addition to hosting special exhibitions, educational programs, a concert series, and symposia, the Frick Collection is home to the Frick Art Reference Library, one of the leading institutions for art history research.

Ian Wardopper attended Brown University for his undergraduate studies with a major in Art History before completing MA and PhD studies at New York University. For his PhD, Mr. Wardopper wrote his dissertation on the Florentine artist Domenico del Barbiere. After completing his studies, Mr. Wardopper worked for 19 years as a curator in the European Decorative Arts and Sculpture, and Ancient Art departments at The Art Institute of Chicago, where he was promoted to head of department. In 2001, Mr. Wardopper returned to New York City to become the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Chairman of the Department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In the fall of 2011, Mr. Wardopper began his tenure at the Director of the Frick Collection. Mr. Wardopper has distinguished himself by his leadership and his dedication to the long-term success of the Frick Collection. Mr. Wardopper has taught art history at six universities and is a prodigious author, publishing myriad books, catalogues, and articles including the recent Limoges Enamels at The Frick Collection and Director’s Choice: The Frick Collection.

CIVITAS is a community based organization that focuses on quality of life for Upper East Side and East Harlem residents. Founded in 1981, CIVITAS is concerned with promoting culturally contextual urban planning and land use policies, with a special emphasis on environmentally-conscious development and vibrant street level retail activity.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Ian Wardopper for his forward-thinking and dedicated leadership of one of the nation’s preeminent cultural and research institutions, the Frick Collection.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRENDON JOHNS ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

MR. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Brendon Johns of Archbold, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Brendon’s offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Brendon brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Archbold High School in Archbold, Ohio, Brendon was a member of the National Honor Society, Class President, and member of the Student Council, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and ranking first in his class.

Throughout high school, Brendon was involved with cross country and track among other extracurricular activities. I am confident that Brendon will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brendon Johns on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Brendon will excel during his career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WOMEN’S CLUB OF WEST PITTSTON’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

MR. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women’s Club of West Pittston on the 100th anniversary of their founding. The Women’s Club, under current president George Anne Neff, meets the third Tuesday of the month, from September through May, at the First United Methodist Church of West Pittston.

Founded in 1919, the Women’s Club of West Pittston provided a social opportunity for women in the community to gather and work toward the betterment of their community. Throughout their storied history, the Women’s Club of West Pittston has been involved in many philanthropic and local endeavors. The Club famously rallied support behind the Iron Bridge over the Susquehanna River, which connects West Pittston and Pittston, and they are credited with helping save the historic structure.

The Women’s Club focuses their mission on supporting four key local entities: fire companies, ambulance companies, Meals on Wheels, and the West Pittston Library. Each year, they raise funds and donate them to these groups. Members of the Women’s Club are actively involved with the West Pittston Library, serving as volunteers and as board members, and donating money and books in honor of deceased members.
HONORING THE UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILL FOSTER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Union of Concerned Scientists’ 50th anniversary.

For five decades, the Union of Concerned Scientists has been using the latest technological and scientific expertise to address the world’s most pressing issues. Its team of nearly 250 experts in science, policy, and communications continues to introduce new and innovative solutions to the greatest questions of our time.

Among their many projects and initiatives, I have been particularly impressed with their work to address the looming threats posed by climate change and to contain the existential threat of nuclear war. I would like to thank the Union of Concerned Scientists for its commitment to our collective future and for its numerous projects that will help ensure a better world for our children.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEVIN HILEMAN ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Kevin Hileman of Toledo, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Kevin’s offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undergoing one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Kevin brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Ottawa Hills High School in Ottawa Hills, Ohio, Kevin was a member of the National Honor Society and Honor Roll.

Throughout high school, Kevin was involved with soccer, having achieved his varsity letter and served as team captain. I am confident that Kevin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Kevin, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kevin Hileman on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Kevin will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAILYN GRANT ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Kailyn Grant of Northwood, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Kailyn’s offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undergoing one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Kailyn brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Ottawa Hills High School in Ottawa Hills, Ohio, Kevin was a member of the National Honor Society and Honor Roll.

Throughout high school, Kevin was involved with soccer, having achieved his varsity letter and served as team captain. I am confident that Kevin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Kevin, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kevin Hileman on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Kevin will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAILYN GRANT ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Kailyn Grant of Northwood, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Kailyn’s offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undergoing one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Kailyn brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Ottawa Hills High School in Ottawa Hills, Ohio, Kevin was a member of the National Honor Society and Honor Roll.

Throughout high school, Kevin was involved with soccer, having achieved his varsity letter and served as team captain. I am confident that Kevin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Kevin, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kevin Hileman on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Kevin will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAILYN GRANT ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Kailyn Grant of Northwood, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Kailyn’s offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undergoing one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Kailyn brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Ottawa Hills High School in Ottawa Hills, Ohio, Kevin was a member of the National Honor Society and Honor Roll.

Throughout high school, Kevin was involved with soccer, having achieved his varsity letter and served as team captain. I am confident that Kevin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Kevin, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kevin Hileman on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Kevin will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.
one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Kailyn brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending St. Ursula Academy in Toledo, Ohio, Kailyn was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and Dean’s List.

Throughout high school, Kailyn was involved with soccer and track. I am confident that Kailyn will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kailyn Grant on her offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Kailyn will excel during her career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING DR. REBECCA RICHARDS-KORTUM, DR. JAMES TRUCHARD, AND JEFF KODOSKY, ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL INVENTOR HALL OF FAME

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Rebecca Richards-Kortum of Rice University in Houston and Dr. James Truchard and Jeff Kodosky of National Instruments in Austin for their induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame on May 2, 2019.

Dr. Rebecca Richards-Kortum is the first woman and the youngest Rice faculty member to earn the rank of University Professor. Early in her career, as a biomedical engineering professor at the University of Texas at Austin, she learned that early screening programs for cancer were out of reach for many and began creating a low-cost imaging system to detect precancerous cells. This technology was further developed to detect oral cancer. Studies later showed that her system could improve the detection of cancer while drastically reducing costly and unnecessary biopsies. In her travels to Malawi, she witnessed the need for such technology in countries in need of cancer detection programs. In August 1918, the Georgia General Assembly authorized the creation of a Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station. In May 1919, my hometown of Tifton was chosen as the location due in large part to the surrounding area’s vital role in agriculture research, outreach, and education. Today, the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station is known as the University of Georgia Tifton Campus. In its one hundred years, UGA-Tifton has been the home of agricultural research, outreach, and education for not only South Georgia, but the state and Southeast region as a whole. The commitment to its mission and to the wellbeing of humanity over this century of service is admirable. As it celebrates this milestone, UGA-Tifton remains poised and eager to continue that legacy of achievements at a showcase event on campus honoring one hundred years of commitment to the community and higher education.

I congratulate the faculty, staff and greater UGA-Tifton community on their successes, thank them for their service, and look forward to seeing their continued growth and success for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATHANIEL ERICKSON ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Nathaniel Erickson of Toledo, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Nathaniel’s offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Nathaniel brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Central Catholic High School in Toledo, Ohio, Nathaniel was a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, and Student Body Council.

Throughout high school, Nathaniel was involved with football and track among other extracurricular activities. I am confident that Nathaniel will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nathaniel Erickson on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Nathaniel will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.
Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate April as National Arab American Heritage Month to recognize the tremendous contributions Arab Americans have made to our great nation. Arab Americans have been, and continue to be, an invaluable part of our American life.

Arab American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of people in the United States with Middle Eastern roots as well as for the public to become informed about the history of Arab Americans in the U.S.

Arab Americans are among the most loyal and patriotic Americans and have positively impacted communities throughout America with contributions to the medical field, agriculture sector, law, business, education, the entertainment industry, politics and beyond.

While celebrating their rich cultural heritage and embracing resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed, Arab Americans have added strength to our democracy.

While many unfairly perceive Arab Americans as unknown or unfamiliar, Arab Americans first began to arrive on American shores in the late 1800s. About half of the estimated 3,700,000 Arab Americans living in the United States were born in the U.S., according to the 2000 U.S. Census and the Arab American Institute.

Arab Americans join all citizens in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe. Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month allows us to promote public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Arab American in all aspects of American society.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to represent the Arab American constituents in my district, many of whom I call friends, and to recognize the incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans who have helped us build a better nation.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CONCERNED MEN COOK

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Concerned Men Cook on their 25th Anniversary. Since its founding by former Merced County Assistant Superintendent Denard Davis, Concerned Men Cook has provided an opportunity for members of the community to break bread while raising money for scholarship funds for local schools in Merced.

As an educator deeply involved in multiple communities, Mr. Davis started Concerned Men Cook after participating in the Men’s Cook competition in Los Angeles. Using his connections from the multiple organizations he was involved with, Mr. Davis brought together educators, businesses, and community organizations to host a competition to raise funds for scholarships for Merced County students.

Mr. Davis was also a founding member of the Black Businessmen and Black Education of Merced County and president of an African-American investment group that provided affordable housing to the residents of South Merced. Though he passed away in 2015, the Concerned Men Cook competition is one of many ways his legacy continues to positively impact Merced County.

Since its founding 25 years ago, Concerned Men Cook has expanded to consist of five avenues in the competition, all of which are aligned with local men from throughout the community. It is now held on every fourth Sunday of April at the Merced Civic Center and continues to be a successful fundraiser for local scholarship funds.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Concerned Men Cook. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor them as they celebrate their 25th year. I wish them the best as they continue to bring together members of the community to raise money for our students.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEVIN THIEL ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Devin Thiel of Edgerton, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Devin’s offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Devin brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Edgerton High School in Edgerton, Ohio, Devin was a member of the National Honor Society, Scholar Athlete Award recipient, and All-A Honor Roll, while ranking second in his class.

Throughout high school, Devin was involved with wrestling, cross country, football and track among other extracurricular activities. I am confident that Devin will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Devin is the son of Padraig and Suzanne Thiel. His parents are proud and supportive of Devin’s dedication to service and his studies.

Devin is the grandson of Jim and Debra Thiel. He is grateful to them for instilling in him a sense of family and patriotism.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Alfonso Matanane Pangelinan, a distinguished son of Guam. Alfonso was a member of the Sinajana Civic Improvement Club in the 1960s and later served as Director of the Passport Office from 1983 to 1986. After his retirement from public office, Alfonso remained active in the community. He was an early advocate for the return of Chamorro lands and federal excess lands to their original landowners. He remained a devoted son, father, and grandfather, passing down knowledge and traditions to the generations after him. He was the son of Vicente Santos and Ana Matanane Pangelinan of Machanao and Ritidian.

Alfonso was fondly known to play the bass guitar with other notable Guam musicians, playing at weddings, fiestas, and family gatherings across the island. He had since shared his talent and love of music by teaching several of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren the art of playing the instrument.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Alfonso Matanane Pangelinan. I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and the legacy he leaves behind. He was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in his village of Sinajana and the broader island community during and after his time in office. My prayers are with his family, loved ones, and friends as they remember their lives with Alfonso and the memories they individually shared.

I extend my condolences to his children, Evangeline P. Flores, Janet P. Leon Guerrero, Michael C. Pangelinan, Donald C. Pangelinan, and Rosalyn P. Ochoco, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be deeply missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.
Suzanne is retiring as the Executive Director of the Lee-Russell Council of Governments on May 1st after nearly 25 years with the organization.

Suzanne grew up in West, Texas before moving to Mayfield, Kentucky for her father’s new job. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky and her Master’s in Public Affairs/Administration from Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky. She has over 30 years of experience in community and economic development in both the public and private sector.

In 1984, she wrote the State of Alabama’s “Community Development Block Grant Program Management and Implementation Manual.” Suzanne serves on various boards and committees including the Auburn Lions Club, the Alabama Association of Regional Councils, the National Association of Development Organizations Board, the Southeast Regional Director’s Institute, Lee County Habitat for Humanity Board, Auburn and Opelika Chambers of Commerce, Alabama Council on Human Relations and others.

Suzanne is married to Wayne Burnette and lives in Auburn, Alabama. Suzanne and Wayne have two children, April and Miranda.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the retirement of Suzanne Girard Burnette.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA BOYD’S SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDRE CARSON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Barbara Boyd on her 90th birthday.

Barbara is a living legend in the Indianapolis community, and this milestone birthday is the perfect opportunity to recognize her distinguished career in journalism. A true trailblazer in the Indianapolis media market, Barbara was the first African-American female to report and anchor television news in our city. Her impressive career lasted twenty-five years at Channel 6 news, earning her a spot in both the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame and the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

She is famously known for a groundbreaking piece highlighting her own struggle with breast cancer in which she addressed the television audience from a hospital bed after undergoing a mastectomy. Barbara was a strong advocate in the fight against breast cancer. Her brave decision to share her personal journey helped educate many people about the disease and inspired others to seek medical care.

Beyond her work in communications, Barbara has long been involved with numerous community and civic groups, including the March of Dimes, the United Negro College Fund, NAACP, and a host of other organizations that helped her leave an indelible mark on our community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Barbara Boyd a happy 90th birthday and thanking her for her years of dedicated service. Her work has informed and inspired countless individuals in our community, and her legacy serves as an inspiration to many. She will be treasured for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAXWELL RUTLEDGE ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Maxwell Rutledge of Findlay, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Maxwell’s offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Maxwell brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Saint Francis de Sales High School in Toledo, Ohio, Maxwell excelled in several AP courses. Throughout high school, Maxwell was involved with the varsity swim team. I am confident that Maxwell will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maxwell Rutledge on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Maxwell will excel during his career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

FORCED RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS IN SINDH, PAKISTAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Sindh and Chairman of the Asia Subcommittee in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have repeatedly drawn attention to the issue of forced conversions and other human rights abuses in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Today, I reiterate my concerns about the forced conversions of young Sindhi Hindu girls.

On April 29, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom released its annual report on the world’s most egregious violators of religious freedom. The report noted that religious freedom in Pakistan continued to decline in 2018. The Commission also reported that “Forced conversions of non-Muslims continued despite the passage of the Hindu Marriage Act, which recognizes Hindu family law.”

While the numbers are unclear, estimates suggest that each year hundreds or more girls and women are abducted, forcibly married, and converted to Islam. There were at least 1,000 cases of forced conversions of Hindu and Christian girls just in Sindh Province in 2018, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The actual number is estimated to be far much larger as most cases go unreported.

Pakistan’s Human Rights Commission also notes that the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2013, intended to address the issue, has not been enforced effectively. The state’s response to forced marriages has been mixed, especially because the police are insensitive and indifferent in most cases. When families report their daughters as missing, this is ignored by the police. Therefore, the abducted girls remain with their abductors, where they are often coerced into silence.

The role of some religious leaders adds to the problem. Mian Mitho, a religious leader and politician, has participated in numerous conversions of young Sindhi girls. He has close connections with the army and the Prime Minister, and this has allowed him to continue his activities.

I urge Pakistan’s government to more effectively address the issue of forced abductions, forced marriages, and forced religious conversions in the Sindh province.

CELEBRATING THE AJC CINCINNATI’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the American Jewish Committee of Cincinnati’s 75th anniversary on May 2nd.

For three-quarters of a century, the AJC Cincinnati has been a major support system for the Greater Cincinnati Jewish Community and worked to create lasting relationships with people of other faiths, races, and denominations.

I thank the AJC Cincinnati’s leadership and members for making a positive interfaith impact on the Cincinnati community.

Congratulations to the AJC Cincinnati on this noteworthy anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAKE STRUCKER ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that
Jake Stucker of Bowling Green, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jake’s offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Jake brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Bowling Green High School in Bowling Green, Ohio, Jake was a member of the National Honor Society, Scholar Athlete Award recipient, and 4.0 Honor Roll, while ranking second in his class.

Throughout high school, Jake was involved with cross country and track among other extracurricular activities. I am confident that Jake will carry on the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jake Stucker on his offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Jake will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING MILITARY ENLISTEES
HON. LOIS FRANKEL
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 80 high school seniors in Florida’s 21st District who have decided to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of the eighty from my district, thirty-three have joined the Army; their names are the following: Kenneth Allen, Ryan Altes, Huguenson Camy, Ralphpy Dormeus, Jonathan Giron, Fernando Guerra Guzman, Michael Guille, Valeria Manzano, Trevor Murtha, Collin Poerstel, Sebastian Rodoli, Kevin Aguilar Agosto, Matthew Soares, Jesus Juarez, Jay Marine, Anthony Medina, Shiloh Robinson, Joseph Saavedra, and Alberto Velazquez.

Twelve-six have joined the Navy; their names are the following: Izabella Brunson, Justine Rose, Jordan Sharpe, Maria Figueroa, Roseny Joseph, Adier Pierre, Xavier Lesueur Sierra, Danny Ortiz, Natali Tamayo, Jessica Gonzalez Rodriguez, Jessica Wagner, Leonardo Gandica Gonzalez, Flora Hill, Donald III Tuckwood, Jeali Vasquez, Summer Dobbs, Jacqueline Sierra, Rafael Perez Garcia, Isaiah McGraw, Ian Giles, Roshell Almonte, Christopher Walsh, Gabriel Rinaldi, Brandon Granberg, Kaden Kennedy, and Alessandro Riccio.

Two have joined the Air Force; their names are Valeria Degrossi and Donovan Dowling.

It is in thanks to the dedication of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our country. On behalf of myself and all of my constituents in Florida’s 21st District, I thank them for their service, and best of luck as they pursue this challenging endeavor.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF GOODWILL-EASTER SEALS OF MINNESOTA
HON. BETTY McCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 100 years of outstanding community service and support from Goodwill-Easter Seals of Minnesota. Since 1919, Goodwill-Easter Seals of Minnesota has empowered some of our most vulnerable neighbors by providing services and support to overcome barriers to employment and pursue lives of independence and self-reliance.

Saint Paul Goodwill Industries began in 1919 with a store in the basement of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Saint Paul. Goodwill trained workers to repair and resell donated merchandise through its retail operation. During the Great Depression, the jobs created through this model became a critical lifeline for those who had them. Goodwill also operated a home for the elderly, a Community House for workers, and a vocational training program for young persons with physical disabili ties.

As the organization grew and matured, it continued supporting Minnesota’s workforce, this time, at the request of the federal government. Through WWII and afterwards, Goodwill Industries opened up its much sought after vocational programs to service members returning from their deployments. Some of those who carried the physical ravages of war with them entered the training programs, and a training center was built to accommodate them. This chapter in the history of Goodwill-Easter Seals is just another example of this organization rising to the challenge and equipping people with the tools to be successful in their communities.

Because of its century of expertise and accumulated knowledge, today Goodwill-Easter Seals is a leader in policy pertaining to workforce development for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to work. Now with 50 locations around the state, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota prevents 60 million pounds of second-hand items from ending up in landfills, all while guiding an average of four people per day into workplaces of their own.

For 100 years, Goodwill-Easter Seals has provided a pillar of economic stability in communities throughout Minnesota. The Goodwill-Easter Seals’ model of giving items a second life, and using the revenue to support effective job training for members of our community is one that has stood the test-of-time. The positive benefits to our community that have accumulated over the years from this approach are seemingly incalculable. Our community would be poorer and less vibrant were it not for the work and diligence of 100 years of staff and supporters who keep Goodwill-Easter Seals of Minnesota running efficiently and continuing to strive for improvement.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating 100 years of Goodwill-Easter Seals of Minnesota empowering and uplifting Minnesota’s communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTIAN LEE ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Christian Lee of Findlay, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Christian’s offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Christian brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Findlay High School in Findlay, Ohio, Christian was a member of the National Honor Society, Distinguished Honor Roll, and Merit Honor Roll.

Throughout high school, Christian was involved with cross country and rugby, having served as captain of both his senior year, as well as participating in many other extracurricular activities. I am confident that Christian will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Christian Lee on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Christian will excel during his career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.
COMMEMORATING ROBERT MARTINEZ, 14TH PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINIST AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Martinez, 14th President of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers.

Robert Martinez is a fighter for the working man. His current role as President of the IAM is just one of many titles he has carried over 36 years of fighting for union workers and working families.

After serving his country in the Navy, he began his IAM career as a member of Local 776A in Fort Worth, TX and was hired as an Aircraft Assembler at Lockheed Martin.

At the IAM, Robert has actively recruited and made a point to reach new generations of workers, all the while protecting its nearly 600,000 active and retired members. Throughout his career, Bob has held positions at the local level and worked his way up to become the General Vice President of the office of Southern Territory, where he oversaw training and education for 14 southern states.

He also served as General Vice President of IAM Headquarters where he was responsible for the William H. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, and IAM's Government Employees and Aerospace sectors.

Robert has been a vocal activist for labor rights in the Latino community. In 2018, he received the Cesar Chavez Award for his distinguished work on behalf of the Latino working men and women.

He currently serves as the Vice President on the Executive Board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement. I honor and recognize Robert Martinez’s 36 years of service to union workers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUALUA TUI MASANIAI

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the last surviving Fiti Fiti Oemicua and Korean War veteran Sualua Tui Masaniai. From the villages of Vatia and Illi’ili, he embarked on his journey in Sualua Tui Masaniai. From the villages of Faga’alu and Filiuta preceded him to heaven on April 1, 2019. Sualua’s legacy will continue in his 12 children, 26 grandchildren and 41 great grandchildren.

He was a dedicated community leader of strong work ethic who served his people and always a man of great faith, compassion, gratitude and reciprocation. He has brought great honor to our Samoan people. Sualua Tui Masaniai will be deeply missed, and his life is worthy of our best memories.

Thank you (Soifua).

IN RECOGNITION OF CHELSEA TAYLOR ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Chelsea Taylor of Van Wert, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Chelsea’s offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Chelsea brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Crestview High School in Convoy, Ohio, Chelsea received numerous academic achievement awards and was ranked first in her class.

Throughout high school, Chelsea was involved with cheerleading, track, and gymnastics. I am confident that Chelsea will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chelsea Taylor on her offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Chelsea brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Crestview High School in Convoy, Ohio, Chelsea received numerous academic achievement awards and was ranked first in her class.

Throughout high school, Chelsea was involved with cheerleading, track, and gymnastics. I am confident that Chelsea will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chelsea Taylor on her offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Chelsea will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CALIFORNIA LGBTQ VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. RAUL RUIZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the California LGBTQ Veterans Memorial.

The memorial honors LGBTQ veterans across the nation who bravely defended our country and the freedoms we hold dear. California is the first state in the nation to have a state memorial for LGBTQ veterans, which enshrines the sacrifices of our LGBTQ service members and reaffirms our commitment to the LGBTQ community.

The unveiling and dedication ceremony took place on Saturday, April 27, 2019 in Cathedral City, California. Organized by AMVETS, an organization that enhances and safeguards our nation’s support for veterans, this event included a wreath-laying service to remember our deceased veterans.

The ceremony also honored 26 individuals with a dove release. Honorees included Jon Castro, an Army soldier from Corona, California, who was killed in the bombing of a mess hall in Iraq. The Rancho Mirage Chapter of Veterans for Peace, a veterans group dedicated to building a culture of peace in our communities, was named in his honor.

All of our veterans regardless of gender, race, religion, sexuality, or gender identity deserve our respect for courageously putting their lives on the line to protect our nation. And with this memorial, we will recognize our LGBTQ soldiers who fight every day to defend our country and protect liberty. It is our solemn duty to honor and respect their service.

I am grateful to AMVETS, Veterans for Peace, and all of the wonderful organizations and people who made this memorial possible. On behalf of the residents of California’s thirty-sixth congressional district, I thank the thousands of LGBTQ Americans who have fought and continue to fight to defend our nation. We will never forget their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER CHIEF MIHELICH

HON. MARK MEADOWS
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne John Mihelich, of Caldwell County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to honor the military service of Command Master Chief Mihelich and his significant impact on the education of the next generation. Master Chief Mihelich joined the Navy in 1973. He served in over ten duty assignments and was promoted to the rank of Command Master Chief. He was assigned five separate Commands as Command Master Chief, including U.S. Naval Security Group Activity in country and the freedom we hold dear. California is the first state in the nation to have a state memorial for LGBTQ veterans, which enshrines the sacrifices of our LGBTQ service members and reaffirms our commitment to the LGBTQ community.

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I am grateful to AMVETS, Veterans for Peace, and all of the wonderful organizations and people who made this memorial possible. On behalf of the residents of California’s thirty-sixth congressional district, I thank the thousands of LGBTQ Americans who have fought and continue to fight to defend our nation. We will never forget their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER CHIEF MIHELICH
when they return to civilian life. The sense of camaraderie fostered at the over 100 American Legion posts in New Hampshire and among the over 17,000 members in our state is truly unparalleled. Veterans and families who are part of the American Legion community share a common sense of service to our nation, and also forge deep bonds with their own communities. Legion posts and members are constantly giving back in myriad of ways, from sponsoring American Legion Baseball across the state, to supporting Operation Military Kids, which helps children impacted by deployment. American Legion posts are not only active within their own communities but also on a larger scale as they advocate for the interests of veterans across our state and nation. I have had many productive conversations with Legionnaires whose knowledge, experience, and guidance have been instrumental as I advocate for the interests of our nation’s veterans as a member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I want to congratulate the American Legion Department of New Hampshire on their 100th anniversary. Once again, I thank the American Legion for their century of commitment to serving veterans, their families, and the Granite State as a whole. I look forward to continuing to work alongside them to support our nation’s veterans.

IN RECOGNITION OF OLIVIA SKELTON ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Olivia Skelton of Convoy, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Olivia’s offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2023. Attending one of our nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Olivia brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2023. While attending Crestview High School in Convoy, Ohio, Olivia was a scholar athlete and received numerous academic achievement awards, as well as attaining a 4.0 GPA and ranked first in her class. Throughout high school, Olivia was involved with golf and softball, as well as serving as the basketball statistician. I am confident that Olivia will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Olivia Skelton on her offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer one of our nation’s military academies not only guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American Legion Department of New Hampshire. On May 5, 1919, the American Legion of War Veterans in New Hampshire held its first meeting when a group of 47 veterans of World War I convened at the state armory in Manchester. Within that first year alone, 69 American Legion posts formed across the state—those who have sacrificed so much to our great nation are able to find the same sense of community and service when they return to civilian life. The sense of
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To receive a closed briefing on the Navy’s 355-ship requirement and alternative force structure options. SVC-217

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Michael Eric Wooten, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy. SD-342

MAY 8

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Defense. SD-192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine new entrants in the national airspace, focusing on policy, technology, and security issues for Congress. SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Civil Works program. SD-406

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payment reform after two years, focusing on Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act implementation and the road ahead. SD-215

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy’s atomic defense activities and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020. SR-222

Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine fixing a broken budget process, focusing on lessons from states. SD-608

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for Indian programs. SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration
To hold hearings to examine the humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border. SD-226

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the Older Americans Act, focusing on protecting and supporting seniors as they age. SD-562

MAY 9

2 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

MAY 20

4 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. SR-232A

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. SR-232A

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. SR-232A

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. SR-232A

MAY 22

9 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. SR-222

MAY 23

12 noon
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. SR-222
HIGHLIGHTS
See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S2533–S2577

Measures Introduced: Nineteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1259–1277, S. Res. 179–182, and S. Con. Res. 15. Pages S2569–70

Measures Passed:

Public Service Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 180, expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States. Page S2577

National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 181, supporting the designation of the week of April 8 through April 12, 2019, as “National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week”.

Veto Messages:

Hostilities in the Republic of Yemen Veto Message—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following disposition of the nomination of Joshua Wolson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Senate resume consideration of the veto message on S. J. Res. 7, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, and Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, with no intervening action or debate, at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, May 2, 2019, and with five minutes of debate, prior to the vote, under the control of Senator Menendez. Page S2551

Ruiz II Nomination—Agreement: By 89 yeas to 10 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Rodolfo Armando Ruiz II, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. Pages S2551–52

Arias–Marxuach Nomination—Cloture: By 94 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. EX. 89), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Wolson Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Joshua Wolson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Pages S2552–61

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 64 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 90), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Page S2552

Ruiz II, Arias–Marxuach, and Wolson Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the post-cloture time on the nominations of Rodolfo Armando Ruiz II, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, and Joshua Wolson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, expire at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, May 2, 2019, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order in which cloture was invoked. Page S2548
Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 85), J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Pages S2534–40

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 87), Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Pages S2541–51

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 86), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S2540–41

Messages from the House: Page S2568
Measures Referred: Pages S2568
Executive Communications: Pages S2568–69
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2570–71
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—90)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:18 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2577.)

Committee Meetings

Appropriations: Indian Health Service

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, after receiving testimony from Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee, Principal Deputy Director, Rear Admiral Michael Toedt, Chief Medical Officer, Gary J. Hartz, Director, Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, and Ann Church, Acting Director, Office of Finance and Accounting, all of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Navy and Marine Corps, after receiving testimony from Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and General Robert B. Neller, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: NASA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, after receiving testimony from James F. Bridenstine, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS: NRC

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Kristine Svinicki, Chairman, and Jeff Baran, Annie Caputo, and David Wright, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, David J. Trachtenberg, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, General Timothy M. Ray, USAF, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command and Commander, Air Force Strategic—Air, United States Strategic Command, and Vice Admiral Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr., USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs, all of the Department of Defense.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine policy principles for a Federal data privacy framework, focusing on consumer perspectives, after receiving testimony from Helen Dixon, Data Protection Commission of Ireland, Dublin; Jules Polonetsky, Future of Privacy Forum, and Neema Singh Guliani, American Civil Liberties Union, both of Washington, D.C.;
and James P. Steyer, Common Sense Media, San Francisco, California.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF WAR IN SYRIA
Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the humanitarian impact of eight years of war in Syria, after receiving testimony from Ben Stiller, United Nations Refugee Agency, Geneva, Switzerland; and David Miliband, International Rescue Committee, New York, New York.

INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION
Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 279, to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, S. 790, to clarify certain provisions of Public Law 103–116, the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, S. 832, to nullify the Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865, after receiving testimony from John Tahsuda, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; William Harris, Catawba Indian Nation, Rock Hill, South Carolina; Ron Suppah, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Oregon; and Cecelia Firethunder, Oglala Lakota Nation Education Coalition, Martin, South Dakota.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION OF RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Justice’s investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election, after receiving testimony from William P. Barr, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration’s Entrepreneurial Development Programs, after receiving testimony from Allen Gutierrez, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, and Hannibal Ware, Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration; Michael W. Myhre, Florida SBDC, Pensacola; Kiesha Haughton, Maryland Women’s Business Center, Rockville; Ken Yancey, SCORE Association, Herndon, Virginia; and Darcella K. Craven, Veterans Business Resource Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

NOMINATION
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Christopher Scoles, of New York, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 2426–2467; and 13 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 37; and H. Res. 336–347, were introduced. Pages H3402–05
Additional Cosponsors: Pages H3406–07
Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H3343
Recess: The House recessed at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H3348
Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Andrew Chaney, First & Calvary Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri. Page H3348
Question of Privilege: Representative Green (TN) rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a privileged resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House agreed to the Hoyer motion to table H. Res. 304, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a recorded vote of 226 ayes to 183 noes, Roll No. 174.

Climate Action Now Act: The House considered H.R. 9, to direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, May 2nd.

Agreed to:

Omar amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that includes findings recognizing the importance of the Paris Climate Agreement’s Task Force addressing the impact of climate change on displacement and the global refugee crisis;

Houlahan amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that requires the President’s plan to meet the United States’ nationally determined contribution to include how the United States may encourage and assist other parties to the Agreement reach their reported goals;

Kuster (NH) amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that requires the administration produce a report examining the effect of the Paris Climate Agreement on clean energy job development in rural communities;

Torres (CA) amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that prevents the President from using the plan mandated in this act to preclude states or cities from taking more ambitious actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

Shalala amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that includes findings that the Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of addressing and minimizing sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and flooding;

DeSaulnier amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that requires a National Academy of Sciences report on the consequences of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement for the United States’ global economic competitiveness;

Pallone amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that adds a finding noting that the Paris Agreement is an example of multilateral, international cooperation needed to overcome challenges facing the international community;

Case amendment (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that includes finding recognizing the role of oceans in the global climate system and international actions being taken to include oceans in the Paris Agreement’s nationally determined contributions;

Bost amendment (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that requires the President’s public plan to be posted online to the Federal Register and allow an opportunity for public comment before the plan is submitted to Congress;

Meng amendment (No. 14 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that includes findings that recognizes the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change;

González-Coló­n (PR) amendment (No. 15 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that directs GAO to complete a study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of the President’s plan on the U.S. territories, including the potential positive and negative impacts on their economies, taking into consideration their unique energy needs and systems and the climate change vulnerabilities faced by communities in these jurisdictions;

Brendan F. Boyle (PA) amendment (No. 16 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that includes findings stating that the Paris Agreement recognizes that adaptation is a key component of the global response to climate change;

Panetta amendment (No. 17 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that adds a new finding stating, “American leadership encouraged widespread international participation in the Paris Agreement”;

Rouda amendment (No. 18 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that includes findings recognizing that American cities, States, and businesses are stepping up and pledging to meet the Paris Agreement goals in the wake of absent and uncertain United States Federal leadership; and

Lee (NV) amendment (No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that recognizes that Article 8 of the Paris Agreement states the importance of addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, such as drought conditions and water scarcity.

Proceedings Postponed:

Espaillat amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that seeks to include findings addressing the importance of climate justice and environmental justice;

Gosar amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that seeks to include findings that the Paris Agreement is a treaty and should be treated as such;

Gosar amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that seeks to strike Section 3-Prohibition
on use of funds to advance the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement; and

Porter amendment (No. 19 printed in H. Rept. 116–42) that seeks to include findings that recognize the importance of clean energy technology development for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions of the agreements under the Paris Climate Accord.

H. Res. 329, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 9) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 226 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 173, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 172.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, May 2nd.

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2020: Dr. Larry M. Wortzel of Williamsburg, Virginia.

Discharge Petition: Representative Hice (GA) presented to the Clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of H. Res. 132, providing for the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 109) recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal (Discharge Petition No. 2).

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3351.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3360–61, H3361, and H3362. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE STATE OF THE CFTC

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit held a hearing entitled “The State of the CFTC”. Testimony was heard from J. Christopher Giancarlo, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

APPROPRIATIONS—CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Testimony was heard from Christopher Krebs, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a budget hearing on the Department of Defense. Testimony was heard from following Department of Defense officials: Patrick M. Shanahan, Acting Secretary of Defense; General Joseph F. Dunford, U.S. Marine Corps, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and David L. Norquist, Performing the Duties of Deputy Secretary of Defense.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a markup on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES AND U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled
“Department of the Army Modernization Programs”. Testimony was heard from Bruce D. Jette, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, Department of the Army; General John M. Murray, U.S. Army, Commander, Army Futures Command, Department of the Army; Lieutenant General James F. Pasquarette, U.S. Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army (Programs), Department of the Army; and Jon R. Ludwigson, Acting Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for Military Construction, Energy, and Environmental Programs”. Testimony was heard from Robert H. McMahon, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Department of Defense; John W. Henderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy, Department of the Air Force; Alex A. Beehler, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of the Army; and Todd C. Mellon, Performing the Duties of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor”. Testimony was heard from Alexander Acosta, Secretary, Department of Labor.

THE STATE OF PIPELINE SAFETY AND SECURITY IN AMERICA

DOE’S MOUNTING CLEANUP COSTS: BILLIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY AND GROWING
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “DOE’s Mounting Cleanup Costs: Billions in Environmental Liability and Growing”. Testimony was heard from Anne White, Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy; and David C. Trimble, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office.

EXAMINING DISCRIMINATION IN THE AUTOMOBILE LOAN AND INSURANCE INDUSTRIES
Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining Discrimination in the Automobile Loan and Insurance Industries”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GOOD FOR THE BOTTOM LINE: A REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS CASE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Committee On Financial Services: Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion held a hearing entitled “Good for the Bottom Line: A Review of the Business Case for Diversity and Inclusion”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COUNTERING A RESURGENT RUSSIA
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Countering a Resurgent Russia”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TROUBLE AT THE TOP: ARE VACANCIES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNDERMINING THE MISSION?

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on a motion to permit an additional hour of questioning, equally divided between the Majority and Minority, for any Full Committee Hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice: Report by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III on the Investigation Into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election; and Related Matters”; a motion to permit Committee staff, as designated by the Chair and Ranking Member, to question the
THE STATE OF FISHERIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “The State of Fisheries”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE: BEST AND WORST PRACTICES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “Protecting the Right to Vote: Best and Worst Practices”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 34, the “Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019”; H.R. 2397, the “American Manufacturing Leadership Act”; H.R. 1237, the “COAST Research Act of 2019”; H.R. 1716, the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”; H.R. 1921, the “Ocean Acidification Innovation Act of 2019”; and H.R. 988, the “NEAR Act of 2019”. H.R. 34, H.R. 2397, H.R. 1237, H.R. 1716, H.R. 1921, and H.R. 988 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 255, the “Big Bear Land Exchange Act”; H.R. 278, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities, easements, and rights-of-way to the Kennewick Irrigation District, and for other purposes; H.R. 312, the “Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act”; H.R. 315, the “Community Reclamation Partnerships Act”; H.R. 375, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; H.R. 434, the “Emancipation National Historic Trail Act”; H.R. 1014, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, and for other purposes; H.R. 1146, the “Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act”; H.R. 1261, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act”; H.R. 1568, the “SAVE Right Whales Act”; H.R. 1809, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, to provide parity for United States territories and the District of Columbia, to make technical corrections to such Acts and related laws, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2156, the “RECLAIM Act of 2019”. H.R. 255, H.R. 278, H.R. 315, H.R. 1014, and H.R. 1809 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 434, H.R. 312, H.R. 375, H.R. 1146, H.R. 1261, H.R. 1568, and H.R. 2156 were ordered reported, as amended.

THE STATE OF FISHERIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “The State of Fisheries”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a markup on H.R. 95, the “Homeless Veteran Families Act”; H.R. 444, the “Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act”; H.R. 1988, the “Protect Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act”; H.R. 2109, the “BRAVE Act”; H.R. 2196, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 2326, the “Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William ‘Bill’ Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act”; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust certain limits on the guaranteed amount of a home loan under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to flight training programs and certain other programs of education, and for other purposes; legislation to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD–VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes; legislation to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD–VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program; and legislation to update H.R. 299. Testimony was heard from Chairman Takano, and Representatives David P. Roe of Tennessee, Lamb, Brownley of California, and Steube; and Matthew Sullivan, Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Planning, National Cemetery Administration.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 1199, the “VA Website Accessibility Act of 2019”; H.R. 1200, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019”; H.R. 1628, the “Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Radiation Study Act”; H.R. 1826, the “Veterans Valuing Our Widows and Widowers Act”; legislation to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program; and legislation to update H.R. 299. Testimony was heard from Chairman Takano, and Representatives David P. Roe of Tennessee, Lamb, Brownley of California, and Steube; and Matthew Sullivan, Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Planning, National Cemetery Administration.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE AND NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL PROGRAM BUDGET REQUESTS HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Strategic Technologies and Advanced Research held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 National Reconnaissance and National Geospatial Program Budget Requests Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Robert Sharp, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; and Frank Cavelli, Acting Director, National Reconnaissance Office. This hearing was closed.

FORMER MEMBERS HEARING: SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Former Members Hearing: Speaking from Experience”. Testimony was heard from the following former Members: Tom Davis, Vic Fazio, Martin Frost, Reid Ribble, Tim Roemer, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of General James C. McConville, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chief of Staff of the Army, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor, and Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sean Cairncross, of Minnesota, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Alan R. Swendiman, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, and Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (Near Eastern Affairs), Edward F. Crawford, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to Ireland, Jeffrey L. Eberhardt, of Wisconsin, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, James S. Gilmore, of Virginia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, David Michael Satterfield, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, and Kate Marie Byrnes, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, all of the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold oversight hearings to examine Federal infrastructure permitting and FAST–41, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 820, to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, S. 998, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and the nominations of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Robert J. Colville, and Stephanie L. Haines, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Brantley Starr, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Virgil Madden, of Indiana, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission, and Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Michael G. Bailey, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, Timothy J. Downing, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma, Brent R. Bunn, to be United States Marshal for the District of Idaho, and Eric S. Gartner, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee On Armed Services, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “Department of the Air Force Acquisition and Modernization Programs in the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization President’s Budget Request”, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Status of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA): Lessons Learned Three Years Later”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Cultural Barriers Impacting Women Veterans’ Access to Healthcare”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 Central Intelligence Agency Program Budget Request Hearing”, 9:30 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing is closed.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

### DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

**January 3 through April 30, 2019**

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<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special reports</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference reports</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>2,840</td>
<td>4,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td>1,238</td>
<td>2,413</td>
<td>3,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint resolutions</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quorum calls</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded votes</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 34 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 44 reports have been filed in the House.

### DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

**January 3 through April 30, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian nominations, totaling 336, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>288</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Other Civilian nominations, totaling 49, disposed of as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Air Force nominations, totaling 1,683, disposed of as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>1,301</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>382</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Army nominations, totaling 3,236, disposed of as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>2,248</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>988</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Navy nominations, totaling 598, disposed of as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>473</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,410, disposed of as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>1,359</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**

- Total nominations carried over from the First Session | 0 |
- Total nominations received this Session | 7,512 |
- Total confirmed | 5,077 |
- Total unconfirmed | 2,230 |
- Total withdrawn | 5 |
- Total returned to the White House | 0 |
Next Meeting of the Senate
9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 2

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nominations of Rodolfo Armando Ruiz II, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, and Joshua Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, post-closure, with votes on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed at 10:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Joshua Wilson, Senate will resume consideration of the veto message on S. J. Res. 7, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, and vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
9 a.m., Thursday, May 2


Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

Hill, J. French, Ark., E516
Johnson, Edith Bernice, Tex., E519
Latta, Robert E., Ohio, E517, E518, E519, E520, E521, E522, E523, E524
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E517
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E522
McNerney, Jerry, Calif., E516
Meadows, Mark, N.C., E523
Pappas, Chris, N.H., E524
Payne, Donald M., Jr., N.J., E515
Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman, American Samoa, E523
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E520
Ruiz, Raul, Calif., E523
Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho, Northern Mariana Islands, E515
San Nicolas, Michael P.Q., Guam, E520
Scott, Austin, Ga., E519
Sherman, Brad, Calif., E521
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E518
Veasey, Marc A., Tex., E528
Wenstrup, Brad R., Ohio, E524
Zeldin, Lee M., N.Y., E515

Hill, J. French, Ark., E516
Johnson, Edith Bernice, Tex., E519
Latta, Robert E., Ohio, E517, E518, E519, E520, E521, E522, E523, E524
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E517
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E522
McNerney, Jerry, Calif., E516
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Pappas, Chris, N.H., E524
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Rogers, Mike, Ala., E520
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San Nicolas, Michael P.Q., Guam, E520
Scott, Austin, Ga., E519
Sherman, Brad, Calif., E521
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E518
Veasey, Marc A., Tex., E528
Wenstrup, Brad R., Ohio, E524
Zeldin, Lee M., N.Y., E515

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