

We need to do more. For the first time in its 110-year history, the Forest Service says they will now dedicate more than half their budget to wildfire suppression efforts, which we have directed as a result of the farm bill last year.

□ 1015

To begin with, this requires better managing and caring for our forests.

This week, we will vote on an emergency supplemental to help communities affected by wildfires. I ask my colleagues to vote with me and pass this important legislation.

Let's do the right thing and help our fellow Americans rebuild their lives and their communities. At the same time, let's be more responsible stewards of our forests.

We know how to do it. Let's get started with our States, local governments, and the private sector.

Future generations deserve better management of forests throughout our country. I think we can do it if we work together.

CONGRATULATING BALD EAGLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL UNIFIED BOCCIE TEAM ON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bald Eagle Area High School unified bocce team, which recently brought home a State championship.

It is only the unified bocce team's second season, and they have already been crowned the best in the State.

The unified bocce team is made up of four students, four with intellectual disabilities and four without. This winter sport allows students with and without disabilities to participate in a competitive environment that promotes physical activity, sportsmanship, and socialization. Teams are made up of students with intellectual disabilities, known as athletes, and regular education students, known as partners.

I am so proud of my alma mater for adopting the unified bocce team, which operates in conjunction with Special Olympics. In fact, multiple high schools in the region have unified bocce teams, including State College and Bellefonte in Centre County and Clearfield Area High School in Clearfield County.

Bocce has become so popular at Bald Eagle Area that it started the season with two teams, a blue team and a gold team. The two met in the regional championship, with the gold advancing to states.

The gold team's eight members include Chelsea Butterworth, Alyssa Packer, Nick Zink, Josh Zink, Fay Shaheen, Emily Gardner, Jordan Bonsell, and Bridget Esenwine.

Mr. Speaker, Special Olympics Pennsylvania also hosted its third annual Unified Bocce Government Challenge on Monday in the east rotunda of the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg. The challenge paired various local organizational leaders, government officials, and legislative leaders with Special Olympics athletes for a fun, competitive, and social experience.

I am so proud of our athletes, our partners, and everyone in the community who has supported the unified bocce team and the inclusion movement.

The team had a hero's welcome home from Hershey in March when they won the State championship. About 100 teachers, parents, and students greeted the team when they arrived back at the school, with a fire truck escort leading the way.

Congratulations to our State champs, the unified bocce team. Go Eagles!

AFTER MUELLER: THE WORK TO BE DONE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, 45 years ago this summer, the Watergate scandal, which had preoccupied the Nation for 2 years, culminated with the resignation of President Richard Nixon and touched off a period of activism and reform on Capitol Hill.

In the years that followed, Congress worked to ensure transparency and prevent the abuse of executive power, informed not only by the work of two special prosecutors but also by the good investigative work of multiple House and Senate committees.

The Watergate investigations exposed an array of abuses of power by a craven President and his associates.

In response to illegal campaign contributions, the Congress enacted the Federal Election Commission, required disclosure, and placed limits on how much candidates could raise and spend.

When Congress discovered that private information held by the IRS and other agencies had been used for political purposes, Congress passed the Privacy Act, restricting government use of Americans' private data.

The Watergate era bears more than a passing resemblance to the tumult of the last 3 years, and today, as in the 1970s, Congress has a responsibility to act to fortify our democracy and our institutions.

Even in redacted form, the Mueller report has illuminated serious gaps in laws intended to protect our Nation's electoral and political process. The investigation, moreover, exposed weaknesses in the way our government tracks and responds to foreign influence efforts.

Like other committees, the House Intelligence Committee is undertaking a close review of the report to develop necessary legislative reforms to pro-

tect our Nation moving forward. But to fully assess the legislative implications, it is imperative that Congress, including our committee, receive the full, unredacted report, as well as crucial underlying evidence.

The report makes clear that the special counsel's mandate did not extend to broader foreign influence activities. The Intelligence Committee, therefore, is undertaking an investigation and related oversight work focused on efforts by Russia and other foreign actors to influence our political process before, during, and since the 2016 election.

A core component is to understand how Russia and other foreign powers used financial leverage to further their geopolitical goals and whether and to what extent financial entanglements exist and may have been used to influence or compromise Americans, including President Trump, his family, and associates.

Working with the Financial Services Committee, the Intelligence Committee has requested information from financial institutions, information that will be vital to fully identify the scope of this threat, the financial means and methods that foreign adversaries use, and the counterintelligence vulnerabilities of U.S. officials and institutions.

The committee's ongoing investigation and oversight, along with other committee investigations, will inform a wide range of legislation and appropriations decisions, including to:

Require financial transparency so that politicians can never again hide significant financial vulnerabilities from the American people;

Strengthen legal authorities and capabilities for our intelligence and law enforcement agencies to better track illicit financial flows;

Deter Presidential abuses of power by instituting constraints on the corrupt misuse of the Presidency, such as legislation I have introduced to rein in the abuse of the pardon power;

Toughen foreign agent registration to prohibit tactics used by our foreign adversaries' unofficial surrogates;

Ensure that campaign finance laws prohibit a campaign from taking help from foreign actors and require reporting to law enforcement of nefarious outreach from foreign powers;

Regulate Presidential transitions and inaugurations to prevent foreign powers from exercising undue influence;

Counter covert active measures campaigns by enhancing cybersecurity to combat hacking; and,

Reform security clearance processes to help prevent compromised individuals from receiving access to our Nation's most sensitive secrets.

For nearly 250 years, the durability of our Republic has rested on our capacity to adapt to changing times and circumstances and to learn from our mistakes. In this effort, Congress has played the leading role and must do so here as well.

We are prepared to do the difficult work required, but we need all the information we seek to ensure that we get it right.