House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. Torres of California).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 11, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Norma J. Torres 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.

AND STILL I RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Green) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Green of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise on this 9/11, a day that will live in the annals of history eternally, a day when there were more questions than answers, a day when we thought that our country was—and, indeed, what we thought was correct—under assault.

I remember the day because I was at work, and as the judge of a small claims justice court, we were so moved by what was happening that we paused to sing God Bless America. I remember at least one person sobbing. It was a day when people within that courtroom were faced with uncertainties unlike we had seen before, and when all of our first responders were challenged.

But allow me, please, for just a moment, to talk and say a few words about those who were there at the site of the Twin Towers.

We could see on television the cloud of dust as it started to emerge and settle, people rushing, bodies covered. It was intuitively obvious to the most casual observer that this was not a place to run to. As a matter of fact, you could see people running away.

But there were those who took their duties and responsibilities seriously, and as others were rushing away, as fear would have us do, they were rushing in. These were the people, many of whom lost their lives trying to save the lives of others. These were the people, many of whom still suffer today because they were bound by duty to do something which most of us would not.

These are the people whom we must never forget. Their lives have been changed and altered forever. But we have a duty and a responsibility here to share our thoughts and our feelings with them, but also to make sure we take care of their health issues.

There is something to be said about this term, “in the line of duty.” Until you have had the opportunity to visit one of the memorial services, it just may not impact you as it can. It will never impact me the way it impacts the family members.

But I want this country to know that those who lost their lives in the line of duty on that day will never be forgotten, and those who served and still serve will always be remembered.

So I take this moment for my personal privilege, and I will lower my head for a moment of silent prayer.

God bless the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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

Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the 18th anniversary of September 11, 2001, to reflect on the events of that fateful day and to honor the lives lost and the heroes that united us.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 roared over Lower Manhattan and into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Shortly after, Flight 175 struck Tower 2.

Our country was under attack. Many of us could never imagine such evil taking place in our own backyard.

The terror did not stop in New York City. The Pentagon, center of our Armed Forces and national defense and our Nation’s Capital, was also a target of evil. Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon at 9:38 a.m. It was a turning point in our history and changed the way we would view the world forever.

The fourth plane hijacked that day was United 93, crashing into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Here in the Capitol, as you exit the north side of the rotunda, a plaque displays the names of the 40 passengers and crew of United 93.

One of those aboard was Flight Attendant Sandra Bradshaw. Sandra had always wanted to be a flight attendant and was living out that dream, traveling and meeting new people.

At 9:30 a.m. on 9/11, she called her husband and told him that United 93 had been hijacked. She said the crew and passengers had decided to try to take back the plane. Their sacrifice saved countless lives, and I can’t help but think they may have saved this very building where we sit today from destruction.

Our country’s fight against terrorism did not happen on a battlefield on the
other side of the world but over the skies of Pennsylvania, New York, and Virginia by ordinary American citizens.

The courage and bravery of Flight 93 was not the only heroism on display that day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders jumped into action without hesitation. When planes crashed, they ran in. When fires ignited, they ran in. When buildings collapsed, they ran in. Their courage never wavered.

We can never forget the lives lost and must always remember the heroism that was shown. And while we cannot bring our loved ones back, we can honor their memory through acts of service.

‘To maintain the spirit of unity and compassion that stem from the attacks, every year our country proclaims September 11 as Patriot Day. It is a great way to honor the souls we lost and pay tribute to all who sacrificed their lives.

As President Bush said when he addressed the Nation: “Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These attacks shook our nation’s steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.”’

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, is one of those days when everyone of age can remember where they were and what they were doing when the first plane hit. I was a police commander assigned to the Orlando International Airport. It appeared to be a normal day, and then the calls unfolded. The planes hit. The towers collapsed. The Pentagon burned. The passengers of Flight 93 mounted their heroic resistance.

It appeared time stood still as the world watched the results and the actions of the hijackers, evil men who set out to attack America, to kill Americans. But they could never have killed the idea of America. You see, that idea belongs to us. It will endure as long as we continue to believe in it, to perfect it, and to make it worth fighting for.

2977 lives. 343 firefighters, 23 New York police officers, and 37 Port Authority officers—they took much from us that day.

As a mother, I think of the roughly 100 babies who will turn 18 this year having never known their fathers.

Today, I remember the passengers and crew. I remember the first responders who rushed into fire and smoke, dust and rubble in a desperate fight to save whomver they could; who worked for weeks on end, breathing deadly particles, trying to find survivors, or at least identify the dead; heroes who died that day or from illnesses contracted from the search, rescue, recovery; heroes who died as they lived, in service to others, who believed in service above self. These men and women didn’t just save lives; they defined what it means to be a hero for a generation.

On the day of the worst terrorist attack on America soil, our first responders showed us the best of us. I am relieved that, earlier this year, Congress passed lifetime funding for the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund.

Yes, evil took much from us that day; but the heart and soul of America, the courage and tenacity, the ability to endure and to stand no enemy can take away from us.

The work of caring for those individuals who answered the call that day must go on, just as our work will go on to secure our Nation, to ensure that we will never again suffer the injury we did on that morning.

But today, on September 11, we pause from that work to remember and to honor the victims and to acknowledge the service of 9/11 is not just something to be memorialized, but to be emulated, to put service above self. May we stand united and serve in the people’s House with courage, devotion, gallantry, compassion, and grace.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, 18 years ago, America experienced the worst act of terrorism in its history. Nearly 3000 people were killed, with many others in emergency services and law enforcement suffering long-lasting health complications, sometimes resulting in death.

On September 11, 2001, a day none of us will ever forget, had a deep and lasting impact on the lives of all Americans. I was one of the thousands who answered the call to serve and to hunt down those responsible.

When I woke on that tragic day, I was serving in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho with the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing, 34th Bomb Squadron—the B-1 bombers. I was and am a proud Mountain Home Gunfighter. Our squadron deployed almost immediately as the on-call wing. By early October, I and my brothers and sisters in arms were mission planning the first bombing runs into Afghanistan.

I still remember the morning of September 11. Memories come to my mind as vividly as if they were yesterday: buttoning the buttons on my uniform when my wife yelled at me up the stairs as a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York; a phone call seconds later that I, in no uncertain terms, needed to get my butt into the squadron to brief my commander on the situation and start loading Conexes; working through the night while the base was in lockdown and much of the country was in a fog; trying to answer questions from my young daughter, wife, and friends about what was happening.

You are seeing my daughter, here, as I came home from deployment.

My memories are not unique, and every American has a different viewpoint on what happened that day. Some lost friends or family, and the tragedy was as a family felt that day should not be forgotten.

But the impact of those attacks was not limited to that day, and history will write that heroic Americans responded with valor and bravery.

One of the most heinous acts ever committed on American soil did not bring us down but brought us together. In the words of former President George W. Bush: “One of the worst days in America’s history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans’ history.”

Less than 24 hours after the first plane hit the towers in New York, deployment orders came. I still remember that feeling, standing on the tarmac and then watching from the plane as my three daughters, all younger than 10 years old, waved small American flags from down below. I was deployed on Active Duty and would be spending the next weeks planning bombing runs on Afghanistan to respond to these attacks.

Our Armed Forces are asked to make sacrifices; leaving their families is often one of them. But after 9/11, when so many Americans had sacrificed so much more, my brothers and sisters in arms were willing to make that sacrifice. Inspired by the heroism of so many firefighters, first responders, law enforcement, and citizens who answered the call, we knew that America would emerge stronger.

Eighteen years later, we remember the heroes of 9/11, honor their sacrifice, and admire their patriotism. Their memories will last for us forever because we will never forget what they gave us, heroic Americans who answered the call.

I was proud to serve with heroes like General Seve Wilson, Bull, Bullet, Eli, Scar, Jimbo, Rooster, Mongo, IROC, Stainless, Lost, Krenkle, Frengle, Sergeant Lowery, Migo, Psycho, Sassy, Tank, Rachel, Linda, Vadnais, Atteberry, and so many more. From Ground Zero in New York to the Pentagon and across the country, American heroes answered the call, and we are forever in their debt.

God bless the United States of America.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.
Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 18th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack to honor the nearly 3,000 individuals, brave men and women who lost their lives. Most Americans remember where they were during and after the attacks. There have been few times in our Nation’s history that we have faced such an atrocity. And the effects are still being felt today.

But instead of shrinking in the shadow of such adversity, we rose to the challenge and came together to lift one another. We became a Nation of one. But it also has changed our Nation and the world that we live in today forever, the way we work, the way we view our security.

This past July, I was pleased that the House and Senate with the President came together to reauthorize the 9/11 Victim’s Compensation Fund for police and firefighters, first responders who answered the call after the attack in New York and Washington, D.C. These heroic men and women deserve all the help we can give them, and we must never forget.

September 11, 2001, we must remember 18 years ago today when we became as Americans. We need that more today than ever before.

HONORING DAVID HUERTA

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, in my home State in the San Joaquin Valley we recently lost a wonderful individual, a leader who I would like to honor today. Fresno State Police Chief David Huerta. David was loved by all. He passed away in mid-August after serving honorably in that position for 15 years.

A lifelong resident of Fresno County, Chief Huerta dedicated his life to serving his community by teaching and providing public safety as a police officer. During his career he was recognized as Officer of the Year. And Fresno State President Joseph Castro said David served with integrity, even in the most challenging of situations.

David will be greatly missed by his wife Cynthia, his four children and three grandchildren. It is with great respect that I ask my colleagues today to join in honoring Police Chief David Huerta.

RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO AND UC MERCED

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the recent achievements of two outstanding universities in my district, California State University, Fresno and UC Merced. The University of California has made the biggest leap of all on the college list. They ranked number one in the Nation for student outcomes, including number one in outperforming expected graduation rates.

Both of these universities currently have over 70 percent of their student body who are the first in their family ever to attend a university. These universities are doing what a higher education should be doing for all Americans. Go Bulldogs. Go Bobcats.

CONGRESS MUST ACT ON GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to rise to state Majority Leader MITCH McCONNELL to keep his word and act on gun safety legislation.

Every day it seems that there is coverage of another shooting on the news. Americans are just frustrated. Since Congress has been on district work this period in July there have been four high-profile shootings in this country. Those shootings resulted in the death of 51 Americans and over 90 that were injured. The threat to public safety today is simply unacceptable in our country.

In February, the House passed two key gun violence pieces of legislation. It has been nearly over 200 days since we passed these bills, but nothing has been done in the Senate. Despite the countless Americans who have lost their lives in these senseless shootings, including children, Leader McCONNELL has refused to bring these up for debate. We should be doing our work and trying to provide gun safety for all Americans.

After the shootings in Dayton and El Paso, the American public has demanded action. The overwhelming majority of Americans want us to take commonsense action to provide better public safety. McCONNELL said he would be doing just that. I think it is time that we hold him to his word.

This Congress must act. The President should take the leadership, ensuring we can do everything we can to protect Americans throughout our land.

REMEMBERING 9/11

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the nearly 3,000 people who were killed on this day in 2001. At dawn, September 11, 2001, was a morning like every other, that is until everything changed. Terrorists, who were intent on destroying our country and our way of life succeeded. But through this tragedy we saw our country unite. We saw unmatched courage and bravery from our first responders, servicemembers, and everyday citizens. Now, 18 years later, we find ourselves with a new generation that did not experience the horrors of that day. They only know a post-9/11 world. That makes it all the more important that we teach them what happened that day, honor the victims, and discuss the impact those terrorist attacks have had.

But today, we remember. Today, we pray. Today, we honor Americans of every background who, in the aftermath of that fateful day, united under our flag, bound together by a sense of unflappable courage, duty, and patriotism.

HONORING SCOTT KIMBRIEL

Mr. TRONE, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Scott Kimbriel, who died on August 12 after a year-long struggle with prostate cancer.

I met Scott sometime before kindergarten and we stayed close for almost 60 years. He used to come over and work on our farm while we grew up, and over many decades our friendship remained strong as we moved across the country.

At his core, Scott was a gifted entrepreneur and businessman. He was able to learn from his mistakes and relentlessly marched forward. He was a giver, able to exercise so much compassion with absolutely no strings attached because it was simply the right thing to do for his friends. I was better off for having known Scott.

In 2019 the American Cancer Society estimates over 174,000 people will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Over 31,000 of those diagnosed will die from the disease. I, myself, am a cancer survivor.

Right now the National Cancer Institute, which is located in my district is working on prevention, detection, and treatment of prostate and other cancers. But we are leaving so much on the table. We need to invest more in research. We need to invest more in innovative solutions that could save lives like Scott’s.

In Congress we must be determined and unified to eradicate cancer and eliminate the heartache that it brings so many families across our great country.

Scott Kimbriel was a special person, and it hurts knowing I can no longer pick up the phone and hear Scott’s ever cheerful voice answer, “DT.” But instead of looking in the rearview mirror, Scott would want us to look out the front window thinking about how we could support those in the future who might suffer from this horrible disease.

I know I am committed to this fight, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight.

REMEMBERING 9/11

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, on this day nearly 20 years ago our great Nation suffered a loss unlike any she has suffered before or since. Almost 3,000 American citizens were killed on September 11, 2001, and thousands more have died or become seriously ill since from their response that day, whether
at Ground Zero or in the Middle East. Men and women, young and old were stolen from their families, their communities, and our country.

As she always has during our darkest hour, this country came together in a common purpose of healing a terrible wound. May we all strive today to soon find that same unity—now, not just in times of tragedy. Americans and her people will be all the better for it.

May God bless the memories of those who died on September 11, and may God bless this great country.

STIRRING TO MAKE KANSAS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, last week I completed my tour of all 105 counties in Kansas. I enjoyed meeting folks of all backgrounds and learning about their passions, concerns and what they need their representatives in Washington to do to deliver for Kansas. From the plains of western Kansas to the Leavenworth, the message I heard from Kansans is what they want their way of life preserved. They want their representatives to fight alongside President Trump, reduce Washington red tape, and advocate for new and fair trade agreements so our farmers can feed the world.

For the most part, Kansans just want a decent job with a good wage and a fair shot at the American Dream. Aside from the safety and security afforded to them, most people would be happy to not have Washington involved in our day-to-day lives.

Despite folks’ disagreements on some issues, Kansans are a people who largely agree on the importance of faith, community, and hard work.

After completing this tour of all 105 Kansas counties, I have a greater appreciation for the challenges of Kansans of all walks of life. Each conversation was an opportunity to hear an individual story about the burden of securing affordable healthcare for a loved one, finding good workers to grow a small farm or business, finding a home to raise their family in, and protecting and nurturing the communities they love and cherish.

I don’t have all the answers or quick fixes for our challenges, but I will continue to strive to make Kansas a better place to live. Each day I am blessed with the opportunity to represent Kansas in Congress. I carry that message with the opportunity to represent Kansas counties, I have a greater appreciation for the challenges of Kansas and this great Nation depend upon it.

AMERICANS MUST REJECT A RADICAL SOCIALIST AGENDA

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, last week a socialist senator seeking higher office proposed increasing abortions across the world as a way to slow population growth and combat climate change. Worse yet, he directly stated that he wanted U.S. taxpayers to pay for these abortions. As many Kansans are coming to understand, this is just one of the many disgraceful and disturbing socialist agendas increasingly embraced by my colleagues across the aisle.

There is no policy proposal at present which more represents the Democrats’ quest for total control over every aspect of our lives than the Green New Deal. That is not even the greatest centralized control of power in American history. The Green New Deal demands we completely overhaul our energy and transportation infrastructure, which would kill the jobs of millions of Americans working in the oil, and gas industries, manufacturing, and aviation industries, to name a few. The plan would crush Kansas beef producers by placing a hefty tax on our farms with estimates costing nearly $2,000 per cow. The Green New Deal would be the greatest centralization of power in American history.

But destroying America’s means of energy and food production isn’t all this radical socialist agenda seeks to do; as we learned recently, the new Democrat party’s to-do list includes everything from banning private health insurance to plastic straws nationwide, positions numerous Democratic candidates for President have already endorsed.

Democrats want to dictate what you can drink, how you drink it, what you can eat, and where you can work, and what healthcare you can have, all while you are forced to pay for abortions overseas. And don’t forget about the proposed 90 percent tax rates on Americans either.

We must emphatically reject this radical socialist agenda and work instead to implement innovative solutions to provide for greater prosperity and equality for our children and our grandchildren’s future and the future of Kansas and this great Nation depend upon it.

MAKE HOMEOWNERSHIP EQUALLY AVAILABLE TO ALL

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

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address how racially discriminatory housing policy has contributed to the unjust racial wealth gap in our Nation.

Currently, Madam Speaker, 72 percent of White households own their own homes, while just 41 percent of Black households do. The roots of this disparity can be traced to the discriminatory housing policies implemented by the Federal Housing Authority, which resulted in only 2 percent of federally backed loans being issued to African Americans between 1934 and 1968. This was a supra-classic form of kinematic, organic, and institutional racism.

The ongoing ramifications of this most insidious example of discrimination continue to be felt acutely by people like many of my constituents. A recent study by Duke University found that the systemic denial of federally guaranteed loans led to the widespread use of predatory home sale contracts in Chicago’s Black communities.

These contracts, Madam Speaker, led to the situation where Black home buyers paid, on average, over $71,000 more—I repeat, Madam Speaker, over $71,000—for their homes than White homeowners who had unfiltered access to federally backed loans.

In total, Madam Speaker, redlining, the practice of rating predominantly Black neighborhoods as “high risk” for traditional mortgage lenders, stole $3.2 million—this is by conservative estimates, $3.2 million—stole up to $3.2 million from Chicago’s Black families.

This is just one example of how homeownership, a pillar of the American Dream, has been placed out of reach of far too many Americans due solely to the color of their skin. It is incumbent, Madam Speaker, upon all of us to make this American Dream equally available to all, regardless of their skin color and regardless of their ZIP Code.

Fortunately, Madam Speaker, there are steps that this Congress can take to support Black American homeownership. For example, as the Urban Institute notes, factoring rental payment history into credit-scoring models could increase financial opportunities for Black home buyers.

Passing the Home Loan Quality Transparency Act, a bill I am proud to cosponsor, will restore a critical provision Dodd-Frank, requiring mortgage lenders to report crucial details about their borrowers, including credit scores, and other data.

Madam Speaker, $3.2 million stolen.

RESTORE TRUTH AND COMPASSION TO IMMIGRATION DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. STOUIZZI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about immigration in America.

My father was born in Italy. He came to the United States as a young boy. I am a first-generation American, and I don’t like the hateful and divisive rhetoric that is used about immigrants today. I am appalled at the way my country is treating the children and families of immigrants.

My dad came to America in the early 1920s. He was the first of his neighborhood to graduate from college. During World War II, he served as a navigator on a B-24 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oakleaf clusters. He returned home and
graduated from Harvard Law School on the GI Bill. As a young, Harvard-educated lawyer and Italian immigrant, however, my dad couldn’t find a job. Italians were not respected, and after Hitler teamed up with Mussolini during the war, Italian Americans were not trusted, either.

My dad decided to return to Glen Cove, where he teamed up with another Italian lawyer, ran for city court judge, and became the youngest judge in the history of New York State.

My father achieved many other great successes, and he would always say, “What a country.” His life was the very essence of the American Dream. Our American Dream, however, is at risk. It may soon be the American nightmare.

Well, I still believe in my father’s American Dream, and I am committed to keeping it alive.

Immigration has been an issue for decades, yet after all these years, Congress has yet to pass immigration reform.

President Trump’s cruel, divisive, and simply unworkable positions have made things worse. His policies and rhetoric have exacerbated the problem, permeating a culture of fear that forces many immigrants further into the shadows.

I have been an advocate for fair and reasonable immigration policies for more than 40 years. As mayor of my hometown of Glen Cove, New York, in 1994, I created the very first shape-up center on the East Coast of the United States of America. It gave newcomers from Central and South America a safe place to get hired and made sure they got paid for the work they did. If they didn’t get hired, they could stay and learn English or new job skills.

As county executive, in 2007, I refused to let ICE work with my Nassau County Police Department because ICE was acting like cowboys, drawing guns and knocking down doors, intimidating children and families who were not even subject to their raids and all of who together presented no risk of violence whatsoever.

Today, those same guys who gathered on the street corners of Glen Cove now own their own businesses and own their own homes, and their kids attended school with my kids.

But President Trump’s heartless immigration actions are separating parents from their children, and children are being housed in cages.

I have seen it with my own eyes. This past July, I traveled to McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, to personally inspect the detention and relief centers, visit points of entry, speak with migrant families, and meet with humanitarian aid organizations. My visit to the detention centers along our southern border was heartbreaking. I saw men, women, and children being held in awful conditions.

Our system is broken. These centers are overcrowded, unsanitary, and clearly ill-equipped to care for people in great numbers.

Meanwhile, the administration continues to promulgate more callous and mean-spirited decisions aimed at further attacking immigrants. Deporting children with cancer and diverting funds from programs to build the wall, including money that was meant to go toward building schools for military families, and keeping immigrant children locked in indefinite detention are unconscionable.

These decisions, endorsed by this administration are not consistent with American values. America is founded on the fundamental principle that “all men and women are created equal.” It is not that everyone with a green card or U.S. citizenship is created equal; it is that every man and woman is created equal and should be treated with human respect and dignity.

We must continue holding congressional hearings on forced family separation; the detention of children for prolonged periods of time; the decision to end TPS and DACA; the Dreamer plan; and the overwhelming backlog in U.S. immigration courts.

We must also defund hate, as my friends at Bend the Arc are advocating, and set a floor for refugee admissions at 95,000, as my friends at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society are advocating.

In addition to defunding the hateful policies of this administration, we must also strive for comprehensive immigration reform. President Trump treats people like human beings, lives up to the American Dream, gives a path of citizenship for TPS recipients and Dreamers, gives protection to millions of others, and secures our borders.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, “When we tolerate what we know to be wrong, when we close our eyes and ears to the corrupt because we are too busy or too frightened, when we fail to speak up and speak out, we strike a blow against freedom and decency and justice.”

We need to restore truth and compassion to the debate over immigration in America, and we need to do it now, because the promise of the American Dream demands it.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Cuellar) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Today we remember a day 18 years ago, begun in terror and violence, and ended in heroic effort and courage. We mourn those whose lives were snatched from them, and wish to comfort those left behind who still strive to cope with their loss. May You, O God, give them peace and healing.

We thank You again for the almost universal, international response to a great American tragedy, which all the world recognized as theirs as well. All Your children of good will could see the horror of actions by men, who would presume to act in Your name, causing so much death and destruction. May Your spirit of peace and justice continue to fill the hearts of people of all faiths, races, and nations. Help us to recognize Your creative love in the lives of all who share this beautiful planet.

Bless the men and women who served this great Nation in the Senate and House of Representatives. May they be reminded of the importance of standing together to face the dangers presented by America’s historical enemies.

May they be confident in the knowledge that all Americans stand behind them in their common effort to forge legislation that will reflect the resilient greatness of our Nation, protect our democratic process, and build a vibrant economy into a safe and secure future.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. Levin) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Levin of California 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.
COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, how familiar this day is.

As a Member of the United States Congress who was in this building on 9/11, it was a bright and shiny day in New York and Washington, D.C. as we fled this building, saw the billowing smoke in, and knew that the other towers had already fallen by someone telling us something had happened. Hearing rumors that planes were flying into the White House and the State Department, we wondered about the resilience and the freedom of this Nation.

How grateful I am to stand here, 18 years later, to remind Americans and those who were not yet born that that was a day that should be reminding us every day of the greatness of our freedom, the value of our democracy, and the power of our people.

We honor those who fell, those families who still do not know of their missing loved ones, those who went to war, and those who have come back.

But most of all, this day is to remind us of the wonderment of the representation of this Nation, the diverse Nation that it is, people from all walks of life, that whatever we have to overcome, we overcome divisiveness we may see yesterday, today, or tomorrow, it will never—it will never—undermine the greatness of this country.

I will always, as one who was here, I will always remember and I will never forget. And I honor those whose lives were lost, pray for their families, but celebrate this country as we sing on the east steps, “God Bless America.”

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER THE 11TH IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the 18th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, Patriot Day, we remember Islamic extremist terrorists hijacked passenger jets to murder nearly 3,000 innocent Americans in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. It is sickening to think of the men and women and children who were slaughtered. Our remembrance promotes the legacy of the people who were mercilessly murdered.

I am humbled and inspired by the strength and resilience, just as my colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, of our country when we stand together to remember this mutual tragedy. Today, I remain inspired by Todd Beamer’s heroism and faith in God. As he said, “Let’s roll.”

This summer, I visited the sites of Islamic extremist attacks in Buenos Aires, Argentina, of 1994 and in Mumbai, India, of 2008. The brave people of America, Argentina, and India are prepared to stand together to resist further mass murder.

On this day, we honor the lives of those affected by the attack. It is also a day to salute our military who served to protect our freedom and to deny Islamic extremists a safe haven in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE GRANDVIEW BEACH BLUFF COLLAPSE

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize an unimaginable tragedy that occurred in my district last month.

On August 2, three women from the same family died when a coastal bluff at Grandview Beach in Encinitas collapsed on top of them: Julie Davis, Annie Clave, and Elizabeth Charles. They were enjoying a day at the beach with family and friends celebrating Elizabeth’s triumph over breast cancer. Suddenly, all three were lost.

There is a lot that I would like to say about the government’s responsibility to help prevent similar tragedies in the future, but, instead, I want to use this moment to recognize the extraordinary life that all three of these women brought into this world.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Pat Davis, who lost his wife, one of his daughters, and his sister-in-law on that day. Today, Dr. Davis is committed to ensuring that no one else experiences the same kind of loss that he has. He has called for action from local, State, and Federal officials to prevent future collapses, and we stand together in these efforts. He is truly an inspiration.

Please take a moment to think of Julie, Annie, and Elizabeth. May they rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH ATTACKS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is home to many gun owners.

Growing up, my family owned guns for hunting. It was part of how we fed our family. Thus, I don’t want to infringe on Second Amendment rights of Americans.

I do, however, want to stop the killing of innocent lives because someone was at risk to themselves or others who bought or accessed a firearm. Too many loopholes allow people to purchase, procure, or access a firearm.

Too many Texans have already died in mass shootings—so this is very personal to me—most recently, of course, in west Texas.

The House has already passed two bills that would prevent mass shootings. Last night, three more bills were marked up and will be ready for a floor vote.

Senate Republicans must allow a vote on gun control legislation. I am tired of people being killed because they won’t act. I end by asking them, Mr. Speaker: What will you do to save lives? What are you afraid of?

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker: What will you do to save lives? What are you afraid of?

Though another year has passed, the pain remains for the families who lost a loved one that fateful day. I pray for all of those people who have lost someone today and pray for them tomorrow, and I pray for those in harm’s way who I continue to serve across the globe to ensure that we can live safely in the greatest country in the world: the United States of America.

Never forget, and may God bless America.

In God we trust.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH ATTACKS

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, we all remember where we were on September 11, 2001. I, myself, drove my daughter, Caroline, to school on my way to work. She was in the third grade. Driving over the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania on my way to work, I recall thinking what a beautiful day it was.

I watched with coworkers soon after that the horror of the planes hitting the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A few days later, I was asked to come to Ground Zero to help.

I will never forget the hospitals were all prepared for injured in Manhattan, but there were no injured, or very few. I will never forget the families and the communities that showed resilience and hope. I will never forget the crowds of people cheering the first responders as they traveled toward Ground Zero.
I now have a flag hanging in my office with 2,977 names of those who perished that day. Two of those names were my friends. September 11, now known as Patriot Day, brought us together and unified our Nation in defiance of terrorism and evil. It is too soon to come together and never forget that we are all Americans and that we, here, represent the greatest country on Earth.

RECOGNIZING ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK
(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)
Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Arts in Education Week.

As children return to school from their summer vacations, I am reminded that true education must go beyond language and math. It should include daily access to creative subjects like dance, poetry, visual arts, and theater.

Ninety-three percent of Americans agree: The arts are a vital part of a well-rounded education, and when schools make the investment, we see ripple effects across students’ lives. A student involved in the arts is four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement; they are three times more likely to win an award for school attendance and are elected to class office more than three times as often as their peers.

We must do more to ensure every child can regularly access arts education. In the most recent appropriations bill passed by this Chamber, we included a $6 million increase to support Arts in Education at the Department of Education.

I am proud to work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to support this program and will push to preserve a strong increase in any final spending bill.

LET’S PUT PARTISAN POLITICS ASIDE
(Mr. BANKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 12 months since we reached a new high dollar amount with Mexico and Canada. Both Mexico and Canada promptly ratified the agreement, but the House majority party refuses to let us vote on it.

While it is a multinational agreement, the benefits will be felt greatly in my home State of Indiana. Forty-seven percent of Indiana’s exports go to Mexico and Canada, generating $18 billion in revenue for the Hoosier State.

American workers need this. Hoosier workers need this. Speaker Pelosi, please, let’s put partisan politics aside and do what is best for Indiana, for our country, and for all of North America. It is time to find the courage to bring this trade deal to the floor for a vote.

REMEMBERING 9/11
(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11, 2001, and the courage of the first responders who ran into danger are forever etched in our minds and our hearts. Nearly 3,000 people were killed, thousands more were injured, and for many who were at Ground Zero, their pain and suffering endure.

This year we finally made the 9/11 Victim’s Compensation Fund permanent so that we can always take care of our first responders, volunteers, and their families. We learned many lessons on that day. Lessons in sacrifice, sorrow, and bravery, as well as lessons in national security preparedness and foreign policy.

As we pause today to remember the victims and all those who were impacted by the attacks, let us also remember the lessons and maintain constant vigilance in our shared national commitment to never forget.

AMERICA WILL NEVER FORGET 9/11
(Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, never forget. In 2001 on 9/11, 2,977 peaceful people were murdered by 19 jihadi terrorists who were recruited by, plotted with, and were directed by al-Qaeda to commit evil acts of war against the United States of America.

America is the greatest Nation to ever exist. We must never waiver in our resolve to defend our way of life. As the world tragically learned on 9/11, terrorists should never be ignored or given sanctuary to plan, prepare, or launch their evil acts. As Scripture says, there is a time for war. Following 9/11 was such a time.

Sadly, America’s focus has long since expanded from finding and eliminating terrorists and those who give them sanctuary. Great nations don’t fight endless wars. If we are truly to make America great again, we must be laser focused. America does not negotiate with terrorists or those who give them sanctuary. There is no substitute for victory.

WHEN WILL AMERICANS LEARN
(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)
Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1941, H.R. 1146, and H.R. 205, three bills which will prevent oil and gas leasing on our Outer Continental Shelf, in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and near Florida’s Gulf Coast.

In 1969, America suffered a disastrous oil spill off Santa Barbara. Two decades later, Exxon Valdez devastated Prince William Sound. In 2010, Deepwater Horizon ravaged the Gulf of Mexico.

When will we learn? How much more of our coastline will have to be ruined? How many more local economies will be shuttered? How many more lives will be lost?

Republican and Democratic officials oppose the administration’s expanded drilling plans. They know the health, environmental, and economic costs of oil spills and that those accidents occur thousands of times each year. There is no reason to take such risks, especially when we have cleaner, safer ways of producing the energy we need. I applaud Representatives CUNNINGHAM, HUFFMAN, and ROONEY for offering this legislation to protect our planet and in the spirit of Pennsylvania’s Constitution, which guarantees the people the right to clean air, clean water, and the preservation of our natural aesthetic.

I urge Members to support these bills. And I, too, say God bless America this day and all days.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OPIOID AWARENESS WEEK
(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Opioid Awareness Week. My home State of Kentucky has been one of the hardest hit by our Nation’s ongoing opioid crisis. Sadly, over 1,300 Kentuckians died of a drug overdose in 2018.

I have been proud to work with my colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Committee to combat the ongoing nationwide opioid epidemic. Next month we will honor the 1-year anniversary of the SUPPORT Act being signed into law. This landmark legislation is already helping communities prevent the rampant spread of opioid abuse, but more work needs to be done.

Last month I visited the Customs and Border Patrol international mail facility located at JFK Airport in New York. There I saw firsthand the dangers of illicit fentanyl coming through our borders. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can be so potent it can kill anyone that comes in contact with it, including our law enforcement officers. I will continue to work with President Trump and my colleagues to stop fentanyl from coming to our country and help stop this epidemic from harming our communities.

REMEMBERING 9/11
(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am a New York Representative whose district is about 10 miles from the World Trade Center, and I lost many friends and constituents in that horrendous attack.

Many years ago, President Roosevelt stood right here in this Chamber and talked about a day of infamy regarding the attack on Pearl Harbor. Certainly, also the day of these attacks was a day of infamy, September 11, 2001.

I remember days and weeks after the attacks you would just walk in my district and see burned papers sort of dropping from the clouds. It is really something that we will remember forever. We remember the brave responders. We remember the people that gave their lives so that others can live. It also told us that we in the United States and over 330 municipalities and governors, Republican and Democratic, from California.

So I think that this is a time for all Americans to pause and say we cherish our values. We remember the people who lost their lives, and we will always fight against oppression wherever it rears its ugly head. God bless America.

And oil-free beaches and bays in Virginia and the Carolinas drive business for millions of dollars in economic output and by supporting millions of jobs.

One common? They are all opposed to expanding offshore oil and gas development. This proposal in the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts is dangerous on many levels. Our oceans sustain a rich diversity of marine life, and they provide immense value to America’s coastal communities by helping to generate billions of dollars in economic output and by supporting millions of jobs.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on H.R. 1941.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 548 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1941.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUellar) 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. 1941) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, with Mr. CUellar in the chair.

The Chair read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The first question is, what do all governors, Republican and Democratic, along the entire West Coast of the United States and over 330 municipalities and counties from these States all have in common? You know what they have in common? They are all opposed to expanding offshore oil and gas development off their shores.

Today we are here to ensure that these coasts, the Atlantic and the Pacific, receive the assurance and the protection that they deserve. H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act would permanently protect the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts from offshore oil and gas drilling. From Maine down to Florida, from Washington to California, the coasts of the United States’ coasts are threatened by the fossil fuel industry-driven agenda, which is driven by the Trump administration.

One of President Trump’s first actions upon taking office was mandating the development of a new and totally unnecessary 5-year plan for offshore oil and gas lease sales. In January 2018, former Interior Secretary Zinke released a draft of that plan, which proposed opening more than 90 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas development. This proposal included the entirety of America’s Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, and if enacted, drilling could endanger more than 7,200 miles of U.S. shorelines.

Expectedly, there was immediate pushback from citizens, elected officials, governors, business leaders, all who understood that their coastal communities are incompatible with offshore oil and gas.

The public knows that bringing in industry as risky and as dirty as oil and gas to the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts is dangerous on many levels. Our oceans sustain a rich diversity of marine life, and they provide immense value to America’s coastal communities by helping to generate billions of dollars in economic output and by supporting millions of jobs.

For example, thriving fish stocks and healthy marine mammals off the coast of New Jersey, Maryland, and Florida support tackle shops, whale watching tours, and a massive seafood industry. And oil-free beaches and bays in Virginia and the Carolinas drive business for local restaurants, for vacation rentals, and for outfitters.

But coastal residents are not the only ones who will benefit from protecting these areas. Some of our Nation’s most majestic national park units belong to us, including Acadia, Biscayne, Cape Hatteras, and Point Reyes. People from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds and from both political parties cherish these special places, and they rely on healthy oceans, clean beaches, and the abundant fish and wildlife that come with them.

The inevitable spills and the variety of other onshore and offshore impacts from oil and gas drilling have no place along our East and West Coasts. Over one million people are employed by the tourism and recreation industries along the East Coast. These are real
jobs that exist now and will only grow if we continue to treat our oceans and coasts with care. That is over four times as many jobs as the industry-generated fantasies that come with opening the entire Atlantic seaboard to drilling rigs.

Four times as many jobs would be at risk from the industrial facilities that would be built along the coast. Four times as many jobs would be at risk from the chronic pollution and pipeline spills that are widespread with offshore oil and gas. Four times as many jobs would be at risk from a catastrophic blowout, like the one we saw in the Gulf of Mexico only 9 years ago.

None of these facts or the outcry from concerned citizens have influenced a Trump administration that is laser-focused on doing the bidding of the oil and gas industry. Instead of protecting our coasts, President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt have played politics and now are hiding their plan to drill near our communities.

In January 2018, immediately after the release of the draft leasing program, then-Governor of Florida Rick Scott at the Tallahassee airport and tweeted that he was removing Florida from the leasing program. However, it turned out that this was nothing more than a ploy to boost the political prospects of a Republican Senate candidate.

First Florida was in, then it was out, then it was in again, and now nobody except Secretary Bernhardt and President Trump knows for sure.

For 21/2 years, this administration has based its offshore drilling decisions on politics, not on the needs or the concern of coastal communities.

In April, the administration announced that its offshore leasing plans are no longer held due to a recent court decision that is related to Alaska. But that is only a short-term reprieve. At any moment, the administration can restart its efforts to auction off our Nation’s marine resources, which will undoubtedly happen if the President were to get a second term.

Coastal communities need assurance that their businesses, beaches, and way of life will not be sacrificed to the fossil fuel industry by the Trump administration.

H.R. 1941 provides our Atlantic and Pacific constituents, including those along Florida’s Atlantic Coast, the necessary protections from the dangers of offshore oil and gas, and it deserves this House’s full support.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, we are here on September 11. It is an anniversary of an event that has been impactful for all of us and has definitely changed our country. We cannot forget that. Hopefully, as a Nation, we can learn from that experience and from the dedication that people gave during and after that particular experience.

Mr. Chair, we are here in what the Democrats have called their energy week with their energy wreck proposals. Their proposals are three very disjointed bills not based on science but based on the idea of paying off specific political interest groups for political purposes.

Earl Weaver, when he used to coach the Baltimore Orioles, loved to bait the umpires. One time, he went out to the umpire and said: Is this as good as it gets, or are you going to get better?

Of course, they threw him out of the game for saying that.

However, today, I want to turn to the Democrats and say: Guys, is this as good as it gets, or are you going to get better? Because what we have before us is not an energy policy, it is an energy nonpolicy.

When I was in college, gas was $0.25 a gallon. I remember driving my car into those gas stations, and there would be a kid who would be my age or younger coming out and filling up my tank, cleaning the windshields, and checking the oil. It was not self-service. I gave him either a plate or a towel for showing up.

I then went to Europe for 2 years, and when I came back, the oil embargo had hit. No one came out to help me. Everything was self-service. No one gave me any more towels or dishes.

Gas prices in the embargo era were going up to the astounding almost $1.40 a gallon, which we could not believe.

Our new President at the time put on a sweater, started a fire in the fireplace, and came before the American people and told us, basically: Get used to it. Live with less. Take it as an honor to be cold in the dark. That is the process.

Fortunately, this country didn’t go along with that, nor did the industry go along with that. Instead of being a country in which we were dependent, we had a nation that was very against the interests of the United States. Instead of being that which was in the position to extort this country into changing our foreign policy simply by exploiting our energy vulnerabilities, America changed, and instead, we decided that would not be our policy.

We came up with a process of not only expanding our energy production in the United States, but we expanded it in a way that produced energy more efficiently; that used it in a cleaner fashion; that used a smaller footprint to do it; that made us energy independent. We could be, instead of an importing country, an exporting country in the concept of energy; and that energy was used not only to support the United States’ independence but also to support our allies and be able to confront negative forces like Russia, which was using energy as a political weapon and still would like to use energy as a political weapon.

Now, we are faced with three bills here today, one much different than the other two. But the end result of the Democratic vision of energy presented to us in this energy week is basically to use the rearview mirror and take us back to 50 years that we do not go back to the time when our economy was fragile, and our enemies thought they could take advantage of our energy dependency, and they could do that to bully the United States.

That is not what the process should be in creating an energy future for this particular country.

Mr. Chair, we have three bills that will be before us today. None of them are scientifically grounded. All of them are motivated by the politicians, political experts, taking science and basically throwing it in the trash and saying okay—which the majority can do. They have the votes to do it but don’t have the audacity to stand up and say this administration or this side of the aisle doesn’t believe in science because these particular issues are politically motivated.

There is no logic to what we are doing. In our committee, it was wonderful having these experts in the field, talking to us and telling us, this administration or this side of the aisle doesn’t believe in science.

I call this hypocrisy as well because there is the vested interest, as the majority here was saying, that Governors in their States should have the ability to make decisions on Federal lands that are not within the boundaries of their States but in the same breath saying that Governors in the Interior States should not have the ability to have decisions made on Federal lands within our State.

I am sorry. That is pure hypocrisy.

This is a lack of focus. It is a lack of focus when, a year ago, the Democratic leadership asked the President to find a way to cut down the cost of energy, oil and gas, to use his personal connections to cut down the costs, and then we are bringing bills in here today that will drive up the costs, which will cut down our possibility of doing that in the future.

You can do it, but there is a hypocrisy in the very essence of what is going on.

Unfortunately, the three bills that will be thrown out here today by the
Democrats as their policy will have the net effect of destroying jobs and harming our economy, potentially turning us to an economic tapisson. That can happen.

More importantly, it is nice to have a visceral contrast between the moribund, Republican leaders, led by Mr. Scalise and Ms. Cheney and several others, introduced a comprehensive energy package, an energy package that is for all energy, all of the above, both fossil fuel and alternative, one that will create more jobs, which will give a logical standard of what we should do going forward with a clear view.

The clear view of what Republicans would like to do with having a logical, comprehensive approach is in vast contrast to three disjointed, dispirited, nonscientific bills that simply want to pay off political communities.

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act.

My bipartisan bill permanently protects the Atlantic and the Pacific Coasts from the threats of offshore oil and gas drilling. It reflects the tremendous importance that Members of both parties place on healthy shorelines and the State and local economies that depend on them. This bill acknowledges that if we don’t act, drilling rigs could soon appear off of our beaches.

Folks from up and down the coast of my district understand that opposition to offshore drilling is not a partisan issue. Whether it be a first grader like Anna Caroline of upstate South Carolina who rallied 70 signatures to stop offshore drilling or a group of mayors like Kelly Keyslering, Pat O’Neill, Tim Goodwin, Jimmy Carroll, or John Tecklenburg who worked tirelessly to defend our coastline, South Carolinians want to protect our community from the disastrous consequences that result from offshore drilling. The Lowcountry is a force to be reckoned with, and we stand firm in our opposition to drilling off of our shoreline.

Down in the Lowcountry, we know that offshore drilling would ruin our economies, our natural resources, and our unique way of life. That is why opposition to offshore drilling is not a partisan issue, and I am proud to work with both Democrats and Republicans to get this done.

Offshore drilling and the booming tourism industry that we have in the Lowcountry are mutually exclusive pursuits. Tourism in the Palmetto State is a $22.6 billion-a-year industry and supports 1 in every 10 jobs in our State. South Carolina’s tourism industry holds great promise for statewide economic prosperity.

I want to take a moment to also consider how natural disasters would impact our State if we were to drill offshore. We have seen spills from onshore infrastructure in the path of a hurricane. Hurricane Katrina is the best-known example, with roughly 8 million gallons of oil spilled.

Last week, Hurricane Dorian was a sobering reminder that hurricanes and natural disasters can change course in a moment’s notice and inflict tremendous damage on communities in the path of a storm.

If Charleston, Hilton Head, or Beaufort offshore energy infrastructure similar to Port Fourchon or Galveston, the potential for a major spill or environmental calamity from Dorian’s destruction would have skyrocketed.

Opposition to offshore drilling is an economic one, but it is also a moral one. The book of Genesis teaches us to be stewards and caretakers of all creation. I find it unconscionable that we can knowingly damage our waters and, consequently, our marine life for such a pursuit.

Offshore drilling is reckless; it is harmful; and it is absolutely disruptive to the communities that we call home. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my bill that will permanently safeguard the Florida District of South Carolina and coastal communities across this Nation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), who has unusual socks on today and who has been through these bills before.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chairman, I stand in opposition to this legislation which undermines the United States’ energy dominance and makes us strategically weaker as a nation.

I remember Admiral Mike Mullen saying there is no national security without energy. We must ensure that our energy is produced in the United States and not cut by extracting the natural resources we are blessed with in this Nation.

Currently, 67 percent of the energy used in our Nation is generated from oil and gas; 94 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf is off limits to exploration. The Department of the Interior projects that an estimated 89.9 billion barrels and 327 trillion cubic feet of natural gas has yet to be discovered on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Opening up the entire Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf could support nearly 265,000 new, higher paying jobs, $22 billion a year in private investment, and generate almost $6 billion in new revenue for the government within 20 years of the initial lease. Mr. CUNNINGHAM’s bill blocks $2.2 billion from going to schools, roads, and conservation efforts in South Carolina.

Through revenue sharing, oil and natural gas development are a critical source of funding for many valuable programs and onshore infrastructure. Revenue payments from lease sales have generated $73 billion for the Federal Government. Much of this money goes into conservation programs, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Many people on the other side of the aisle that will support this bill also supported the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In 2018, the LWCF received $32 million in royalties. In South Carolina, received $1.5 million in 2018 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Oil and gas royalties totaled about 90 percent of the LWCF’s funding. Congress has already voted to permanently reauthorize its funding.

How do the supporters of this bill intend to make up nearly all of the funding for a program that they supported that would be cutting with this bill? They would do it by taxing the hardworking American citizens, I guess.

Blocking offshore development would not only significantly harm our economy, but it would increase dependence on our adversaries for energy.

In 2018, there was a Russian LNG tanker that arrived in the Boston harbor. It traveled 4,500 miles from Russia to the U.S. when the United States has been the number one producer of natural gas since 2009.

New England relies on foreign countries for about 20 percent of its natural gas. Why? Because we don’t have the pipeline capacity running from the Marcellus shale up to New England to provide American natural gas, so they are having to buy from Russia.

Development of our resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, opening up areas that were blocked by past administrations to energy development, exploration, and, ultimately, production, provides money for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and it provides national security for places like New England and lessens their dependence on a foreign source of natural gas. And that foreign source, ladies and gentlemen? Russia.

Let this be a lesson in what is in store for this country if this bill is adopted. This bill leverages our adversary, Russia, while undermining our security.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, let me first thank the sponsor of this legislation, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), and Mr. Grijalva for all of their work on this legislation.

I want to say that I do think a permanent moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans’ Outer Continental Shelf planning areas is something that we must do. It doesn’t matter whether you represent the Atlantic or the Pacific Coast communities. A vote for a permanent moratorium on oil and gas development along these shores is a vote for our economy’s economic vitality.

I heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the last two speakers talk about national security and
how we don't have an energy plan. The bottom line is that, if you look at the consequences to the economy of the country in these coastal communities from something like the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, it was a 30-year project. The largest of New Jersey's fisheries from Texas to Florida, including 22,000 lost jobs just for fisheries.

Think of the impact on the tourism industry with the impact on local businesses, if we have a spill of this magnitude. Tourism is now the number one industry of New Jersey, perpetually.
I expect we will hear a lot more from my friends across the aisle, many of whom represent landlocked districts, who claim there is nothing to worry about. Well, they should know that the folks who actually live in coastal communities won’t stop fighting to protect our coasts.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), our new Member in his first term here.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding. Mr. Chairman, I come from the Commonwealth of Virginia, a Commonwealth which is rich in natural resources. We have an abundant supply of energy sources, but this legislation would destroy the untapped potential for research and investment in oil and gas resources off our coast.

This bill would stifle innovation, prevent job creation, and severely limit the ability of our Nation to realize its full potential for achieving long-term energy independence.

Studies have shown that exploring offshore oil and natural gas resources would bring thousands of jobs to Virginia and significantly boost its economy.

Earlier this spring I traveled with Congressman SCALISE and a delegation of Members to his district in Louisiana, and helicoptered off into the Gulf of Mexico where I was able to see firsthand the great strides that have been made in energy exploration, technology, and innovation, and the great benefits that have accrued to Louisiana: Louisiana schools, Louisiana roads, and port projects as a result.

The amazing developments in ensuring that energy resources can be explored and extracted safely and with minimal impact to our environment, demonstrate that similar efforts can be achieved back home in the waters off the coast of Virginia, and that our environmentally sensitive areas would be protected for future generations to enjoy, while we can lower energy costs for residents and businesses across our great Commonwealth.

H.R. 1941 would block millions of dollars from going to Virginia and other coastal States. If South Carolina doesn’t want the money, fine, but the Federal Government should not be in the business of halting Virginia and, in turn, America’s economic growth. Failing to give States like mine the ability to explore the resources off our coast would be a grave disservice to my constituents, our Commonwealth, and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. Mr. Chair, the administration’s proposed 5-year plan for expanded oil and gas leasing would pose significant danger to our Nation’s coastal waters which are home to thousands of plant and animal species that rely on a well-balanced marine ecosystem.

According to Oceana, oil and gas exploration could have untold effects on fish and marine wildlife, from decreasing fish catches, to increase stranding or beaching of marine mammals.

On top of that, oceans are an enormous driver of our States’ economies. In my home State of Rhode Island, ocean industries such as fishing, tourism, and recreation account for nearly $2 billion in annual economic activity and support more than 41,000 jobs.

Throughout New England, it accounts for more than $17 billion annually. Our States cannot afford to risk the coasters posed to our oceans and coasts by the administration’s misguided proposal to expand oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic. We cannot afford to sit by and watch the President plunder our oceans for the benefit of the big oil companies at the expense of polluting our oceans, endangering fishing and tourism industries, and harming coastal communities.

I was proud to introduce legislation earlier this year, the New England Coastal Protection Act, which would prohibit drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf off of the coast of the New England States, which I am proud to say has the support of every Member of Congress from New England, and which is incorporated in this bill before the House today.

It is imperative that this country pursue a cleaner, more sustainable energy future which protects our oceans and coastal communities, and spurs job growth.

I strongly urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), who happens to be the Republican co-chair of the House Congressional Steel Caucus.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for yielding.

For years, we have been told that we live in a resource-poor Nation. We were also told that the domestic oil and gas reserves were depleted. But, today, we know how wrong those predictions were.

America is now the world leader in energy development. But don’t forget about the jobs. Oil and gas production is a jobs multiplier. According to recent studies, more than 10 million American jobs can be attributed to oil and gas production each drilling and oil job, many more are created in manufacturing, transportation, and service industries.

In my district, the U.S. Steel Granite City Works facility processes the steel for Oil Country Tubular Goods. These products are used in oil and gas production. These are good-paying jobs with great benefits.

In addition to the steel jobs in Granite City, approximately 10,000 Illinois manufacturers have jobs that have oil and gas industry ties. According to some estimates, an additional 1 million manufacturing jobs could be created through oil and gas development.

Today I rise in support of the Coastal Marine Economies Protection Act and to defend Maine’s coastline for future generations.

This summer, I was blessed to, once again, become a grandmother. With the birth of my new grandson, I am now lucky enough to be the grandmother of four. All four of my grandchildren played in and around the ocean this summer, the Gulf of Maine, just as their parents have done and so many other Mainers do every summer.

The Gulf of Maine is an irreplaceable natural resource that is a draw for millions of tourists each year, and it is critical to the Maine economy. It should not be exploited for oil and drilling.

The climate crisis has already taken a toll on our waters. It has caused ocean acidification and rising sea levels, and the warming of the ocean has put Maine’s vibrant fishing industries in peril.

Drilling for fossil fuels in the Gulf of Maine when we should be investing in renewable energy, is like trying to put out a fire by dousing it with kerosene.

I believe it is our duty as elected leaders to leave this Nation better than we found it. That means ensuring we preserve our oceans for our children and our grandchildren, and we fight this climate crisis with all we have got.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his work on this and for yielding me the time.

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energy development, while looking after our natural and ecological resources. I love my district dearly. I was born and raised there. I have lived there all of my life and will continue to live there the rest of my life. I will always love the beautiful coastline that we have in my district. But blanket bans instituted by these bills across the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf, and Alaskan coasts and are, quite plainly, the wrong approach.

In January of last year, I raised concerns with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management about how this plan would affect Georgia and my constituents. In April of this year, after the Georgia General Assembly passed a resolution opposing energy exploration in Federal waters off of Georgia, I sent a letter to Secretary Bernhardt requesting he exclude Georgia from consideration under this plan. Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today on behalf of my State and the communities, economies, and ecosystems they support. My home State of New Jersey boasts a multibillion dollar commercial and fishing industry. That’s 50,000 jobs and $7 billion every year. Potential spills from oil and gas development imperil every one of these jobs and every one of those industries. That is 50,000 jobs and $7 billion a year, not to mention the threat to the climate change.

An oil spill could trigger even greater devastation to the nearly 500,000 jobs supported by our State’s tourism industry. Visits to the beautiful shore generates $16.6 billion in wages and adds $5.5 billion to the State’s tax coffers. Too much is at stake.

We cannot auction off our environment. We can’t auction off our economy, and we sure as heck can’t auction off our future to the highest bidder. We need to protect our waters from dirty fossil fuels that would forever change the character of our coast for the worse. We need to protect the Atlantic Coast by permanently banning offshore oil and gas drilling.

Mr. Chairman, we need a concrete plan of action like this because the climate is changing in a way that threatens our national security, our ecosystems, and our economy.

Thank you to my colleagues in the House for recognizing the threat to our coastal economies. A permanent moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling in both the Atlantic and Pacific. This would apply to new offshore oil drilling. Such oil drilling is both dangerous and harms coastal economies.

My congressional district spans the coast of Los Angeles from Palos Verdes to Malibu. Its natural beauty is rivaled by few, and the tourism, recreation, and other ocean-related industries flourish because of it.

Just a few years ago, in 2015, an oil pipeline ruptured in Santa Barbara to the north of my district, spilling 100,000 gallons of oil into the ocean, killing wildlife, and forcing closure of beaches in my district as their oil flowed down. This oil spill can affect large pieces of land and our environment, and our economy suffered. H.R. 1941 is a forward-thinking bill that will protect California’s coast and help turn us away from fossil fuels. At a time when tackling the climate crisis is absolutely critical, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this bill introduced by Mr. CUNNINGHAM from South Carolina and two other bills on the floor this week that will be considered. All three are bipartisan bills. I thank Mr. CUNNINGHAM for his leadership on this particular issue.

A permanent moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in pristine, untouched areas will help protect ecosystems and economies all along our Nation’s Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. The other bills we will be considering this week will prevent oil and gas drilling along the Gulf Coast of Florida and...
protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Trump administration is forcing a false choice between energy security and the health and safety of our coastal and Arctic environments. If we fail to protect our coastal and Arctic ecosystems, then we put at risk the livelihoods of millions of Americans in those communities that depend on their continued health and abundance. In fact, communities on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico, tourism, outdoor recreation, and fishing are crucial to their economies. In Alaska, the Gwich’in people rely on the carefully balanced Arctic ecosystem for hunting, fishing, and their ancient way of life. Drilling in these areas creates an unacceptable risk both to our environment and to the people who live in those communities.

Mr. Chair, the United States is now the largest producer of oil and gas in the world. No one would have thought that possible even a decade ago, yet here we are. Thank to advances in technology, over the past 6 years, we have more than doubled our oil and gas export. All of that has been made possible without touching vulnerable environments like the Arctic refuge or off the coast of my home State of Maryland, the Atlantic or the Pacific.

The Trump administration is proposing to open the entire eastern seaboard for oil and gas development, from the Gulf of Maine to the Straits of Florida, States up and down the Atlantic Coast, and firsthand, the damage oil spills inflicted on our communities and our local economies. During the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, over 100,000 barrels of crude oil spilled into the Santa Barbara Channel. This was the largest oil spill in California’s history. It fundamentally harmed Santa Barbara’s unique marine ecosystem and wildlife, recreational interests, and commercial fishing.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from California has expired.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentleman from California an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Paired with the 2015 Blaine Refugio oil spill, where cleanup costs hit $92 million, these incidents show us that we cannot afford another disastrous oil spill.

In contrast, California’s coastal region tourism generates over $1.9 trillion of GDP per year. It also supports more than 731 billion in wages. Any future oil drilling would pose a direct threat to our local economies and the success of local businesses that are tied to clean oceans and healthy ecosystems. We must safeguard our planet’s ecosystems and our children’s generations, including my two grandchildren, Roman and Gianna. This is why I urge passage of H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a Statement of Administrative Policy, which indicates the President’s advisors would recommend a veto of this particular bill in the unlikely event that it will actually be considered by the Senate, but, Mr. Chair, you can bet your Social Security payments it won’t be.

The Administration opposes H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019, H.R. 1146, the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act, and H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. These bills would undermine the Administration’s commitment to a prosperous American economy supported by the responsible use of the Nation’s abundant natural resources. Development of our resources enhances our energy security and energy dominance, and produces high-paying American jobs; provides increased revenue to the Treasury, States, and local communities; and is a critical source of conservation funding.

H.R. 1196 would prohibit the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management administrator’s leasing program in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska. The bill would repeal a provision of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that required the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program for the development of the Coastal Plain that would allow the use of no more than about 0.01 percent of the total acreage of ANWR for surface development of production and support facilities. The Administration supports environmentally responsible energy development on the Coastal Plain, also known as the 1002 Area, of ANWR. Such development is expected to increase America’s energy security and independence, create jobs, and provide affordable, reliable energy for consumers while providing much-needed revenue to both the State of Alaska and the Federal Government.

Similarly, H.R. 205 and H.R. 1941 would both restrict future oil and gas development in the Federal waters of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). H.R. 205 would amend the Outer Continental Shelf (OCSLA) to permanently remove from consideration offshore leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida, and west of the Santa Barbara Channel. H.R. 1941 would prohibit the Development of the Coastal Plain Protection Act, and H.R. 1941, Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act, from leasing consideration could place more revenue that would otherwise be provided to the States, tribes, and counties where the development activities occur. In Fiscal Year
2018, energy development on Federal and In-
dian lands and waters generated approxi-
mately $9 billion in direct revenue from roy-
alies, bonus bids, and rents. Of that rev-
ue, $2.6 billion was disbursed to the States.
The top States receiving Fiscal Year 2018
revenues were New Mexico ($834.9 million); 
Wyoming ($565.9 million); Colorado ($312.5 
million); South Dakota ($99.6 million); and
North Dakota ($76 million). Additionally, more than $1 bil-
lion was disbursed to Indian tribes and indi-
vidual Indian mineral owners. $1.22 billion to the 
Reclamation Fund; $760 million to the 
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); 
$350 million to the Historic Preservation 
Fund; and $3.5 billion to the general fund of the
Treasury.

Prohibiting energy development in new
Federal areas would hinder future administra-
tions’ efforts to make up for revenue lost as 
production declines from leases in aging 
energy fields. Such restrictions will tie the 
hands of future administrations and reduce 
their ability to enhance energy security
through strong domestic energy production 
and to ensure affordable energy for American 
families.

If these bills were presented to the Presi-
dent, his advisors would recommend he veto 
them.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I
also include in the RECORD a letter of 
strong opposition to the bill by over 20 
entities, including the U.S. Chamber of
Commerce, Consumer Energy Alliance, 
and a letter in opposition from the
Laborers’ International Union of North
America.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council, American
Council of Engineering Companies, American
Forest & Paper Association, American Gas
Association, American Iron and Steel Insti-
tute, American Petroleum Institute, Amer-
can Pipeline Contractors Association, Con-
sumer Energy Alliance, Distribution Pipeline
Contractors Association, Energy Equip-
ment and Infrastructure Alliance, Inde-
pendent Petroleum Association of America,
International Association of Drilling Con-
tractors, International Association of Geo-
physical Contractors, Laborers’ Interna-
tional Union, National Association of
Manufacturers, National Ocean Industries Association, National
Utility Contractors Association, Marine
Service Association, Portland Cement
Association, Power and Communication
Contractors Association, U.S. Chamber of
Commerce, U.S. Oil and Gas Association.

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

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition
to these ill-conceived bills.

Energy independence is central to the fu-
ture of the American economy and our
standard of living. Unfortunately, the
enemies of offshore drilling wish to try to
wail off and strand our domestic energy
resources from development; killing jobs,
prolonging our energy dependence on un-
friendly foreign regimes and middle-class
and lower-income families with rising energy
costs.

For the hard-working members of LIUNA
and other building trades unions, these jobs
put food on their families’ tables and roofs
over their heads. These jobs enable them to
save for retirement, and to spend money in busi-
ness establishments that employ others.

I urge you to vote against these ill-con-
ceived bills.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely yours,

TERRY O’SULLIVAN,
General President.
thank all the speakers for coming before us.

The sky is not falling. Let me repeat that: The sky is not falling. It has been pointed out and reported that if we do not have drilling in the Atlantic and Pacific, it will badly hurt the Land and Water Conservation Fund because it is funded from offshore revenues. The idea that the passage of H.R. 1941 will hurt the LWCF is completely false. This bill will not affect the LWCF at all.

Let’s talk about it. All the money for the LWCF from this fund comes from the existing oil and gas activities in the central and western Gulf of Mexico. Of the resources that come into the Federal Government from these areas, the central and western Gulf of Mexico, the Land and Water Conservation Fund gets the first $900 million. That is what comes in, and then it is distributed.

Last year, what came in for the conservation fund should have been over $4.7 billion. In the last 19 years, we have brought in, at a minimum, $2.8 billion, far in excess of the $900 million that goes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

There are projections that the existing activity in the Gulf of Mexico is enough to keep the LWCF funded for many, many decades to come. We don’t need to drill in the Atlantic or the Pacific to fund the LWCF. Revenues are not the problem.

What is the problem then? The real problem is that only twice in the history of the LWCF has Congress appropriated the full $900 million. As I have pointed out, much more money has come into the Treasury. Only twice have we ever fully appropriated the money.

□ 1330

In fact, we have collected almost $10 billion in revenues that should have been in the LWCF, but we have appropriated less than half of that, which is $18.4 billion.

So I am glad that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are very concerned about the LWCF, but I would like to point out that we should make sure we work together, that we get the full $900 million that we should be getting every year and that we are not getting every year.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers, and I am ready to close.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I am ready to close, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the concern that the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) has for the LWCF. The issue though at hand is not necessarily what we have been appropriating for LWCF. The issue at hand is that you want to triple that amount.

If you are actually going to cut the potential revenue that is going to come from these areas, don’t ask to triple it at the same time. And I would still ask you—and remind you—I have got a park backlog bill that I want to have funded. Let’s keep the funds away from the park maintenance backlog. That is far more significant than what we are talking about.

But the real issue we are having here is a difference in the approach to the energy of our country and the future. You have three disjointed bills, none of them based on science—a lot of them based on mythology that we have heard here today, none of them scientifically based—but they are here in an isolated way, which the whole goal is to cut stuff. Let’s just not produce.

Now, at least when Jimmy Carter put on that sweater and started the fire and he talked to the American people, he was at least on test enough with them to say, You are going to have to lower your expectations. You won’t be able to live the lifestyle you want to have in the future.

At no time has anyone who is purporting this kind of an approach that has been pushed by the Democrats talked about lowering or being willing to lower their thermostats in the winter or cut down on their air-conditioning in the summer, or stop driving their boats as often as they want to, or no longer going on planes, trains, and automobiles.

Now, they just expect—miraculously—energy to be produced by other areas that they can then enjoy it in some particular way. That is not a logical approach. It can be done, but it is not a logical approach. It doesn’t just miraculously happen.

The difference is, what the Republicans have on the table today is an overall approach to energy, a comprehensive approach to energy. Not just a comprehensive approach of how we build on our fossil fuels, but also how we build alternative energy and a different need. And we are talking about how we involve the States in that concept, because every State has a different requirement, a different initiative, and a different need. And we are trying to do that, not some one-size-fits-all blanket approach as we are going to have in this bill and the third bill that we will actually have tomorrow.

The approach the Democrats are doing is saying we won’t develop American sources of oil off the coast. Instead, we will try to rely on, maybe, them coming from somewhere else. Some of our colleagues have already talked about how the Russians are already importing into Boston. How California uses 7 percent of its energy coming from Saudi Arabia, and they come in tankers.

And, Mr. Chairman, the problem is that we fail to realize, if you really want to have a higher mathematical possibility of oil spills, it is significantly higher when it comes from tankers than it is if we do our own drilling.

So not only are we not talking about being self-sufficient, not only are we not talking about now trying to be a source of support for our allies, not only are we not trying to be somewhere where we can be a major player in this world, we are going to cut back automatically and actually make a greater risk in the process of doing it.

This is a silly approach, and it contrasts specifically with what we are attempting to do. We can have jobs and we can have a future. And we can have a country that will no longer be bullied by other countries, seeing that we are energy-weak, if we approach it the way the Republicans want to approach it.

But if we still do this disjointed, dispirited, nonscientific approach based on more myth than reality, then, actually, we are going in the opposite direction.

The Democrats in their energy-weakness, would march us back 50 years to a time when America was much more fragile and in which second-rate powers thought they could bully us into submission simply by taking advantage of our lack of a strong, coherent energy policy. And that is what Republicans do not want to see happen again.

So that is why I ask you all to look at the bill that was introduced today—the Republican approach to it. That is the way of the future.

It is bright, it is big, it is positive. It moves us forward. What we are doing today with a bunch of bills that piecemeal take us back from where we came, and we should never return again.

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

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

I just, in closing, would like to make a few statements that kind of reiterate what has already been said, I think so many good and how we must protect our coast.

Right now, the United States produces, in totality, 12.3 million barrels of oil a day—crude oil, each and every day. It is an all-time U.S. record. We have done that in 2018, and we lead the world now in terms of export production.

Of that 12.3 million, we export over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day. It is more than is exported from all the nations of the world, except for two OPEC nations.

We are the number one producer of natural gas. We are a net exporter of natural gas, but we also say we do—by not opening up the Atlantic and the Pacific, we are not putting this tremendous resource of oil development at risk. Right now, in the Gulf, open for development in the future, we normally put up almost 80 million acres in the Gulf for leasing each year.

Right today over 72 percent of the potential Gulf that is open for oil and gas development, 72 percent has not yet been developed. There is an estimated 43 billion barrels of oil in the Gulf yet
to be discovered and produced. There is enough oil there for the next 66 years of production at the same level that we have today. We must protect our coast. We must protect the future.

Mr. Chair, I urge swift adoption of H.R. 1941, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to H.R. 1941, which will block oil and natural gas lease sales in the Atlantic and Pacific.

To the extent that it undermines the United States’ ability to develop our domestic energy resources, furthermore, it emboldens Russia to continue to use its oil and gas as a weapon against Europe.

At a time when Putin is using all available tools to sow discord and chaos around the world especially in Europe and the Middle East, we need to work together to stop him from further harming our national security interests and those of our allies. This bill is a step in the wrong direction and will further empower Putin.

In addition to this bill’s geo-political ramifications, it also ignores the fact that American energy extraction technology and techniques are the best in the world. Inhibiting U.S. energy production will create a void for Russia and others to fill with their more ecologically damaging methods, while also sacrificing American jobs.

Based on the negative effects H.R. 1941 will have on global security, the environment, and our economy, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print 116-31, modified by the amendment printed in part E of House Report 116-200, shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1941

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 “Coastal and Marine Energy Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON LEASING IN CERTAIN PLANNING AREAS.

Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1348, by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (h) and (i) respectively, and by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) The Secretary shall not include in any leasing program under this section any area within the Atlantic Region planning areas or the Pacific Region planning areas, as such planning areas are described in the document entitled ‘Draft Proposed Program Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2019–2024’, dated January 2016.

SEC. 3. AFFIRMATION COLLECTION.

Section 22 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1348) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall collect from the operators of facilities subject to inspection under subsection (c) non-refundable fees for such inspections—

“(A) at an aggregate level equal to the amount necessary to offset the annual expenses of inspections of Outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) by the Secretary of the Interior; and

“(B) using a schedule that reflects the differences in cost among the classes of facilities to be inspected.

“(2) OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY FUND.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ‘Ocean Energy Safety Fund’ (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Fund’), into which shall be deposited all amounts collected as fees under paragraph (1) that shall be available as provided under paragraph (3).

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—Notwithstanding section 392 of title 31, United States Code, all amounts deposited in the Fund—

“(A) may be credited to the Fund;

“(B) may be credited to the Ocean Energy Safety Fund;

“(C) shall be available only to the extent provided for in advance in an appropriations Act; and

“(D) shall remain available until expended.

“(4) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—For each fiscal year beginning after fiscal year 2020, the Secretary shall adjust each dollar amount specified in this subsection for inflation based on the change in the Consumer Price Index from fiscal year 2020.

“(5) ANNUAL FEES.—Annual fees shall be collected under this subsection for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year.

“Annual fees for fiscal year 2020 shall be—

“(A) $11,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering equipment;

“(B) $18,500 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

“(C) $34,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

“(6) FEES FOR DRILLING RIGS.—Fees shall be collected under this subsection for drilling rigs on a per inspection basis. Fees for fiscal year 2020 shall be—

“(A) $33,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 500 feet or less; and

“(B) $18,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

“(7) FUEL USE FEES.—Fees shall be collected under this subsection for well operations conducted via non-rig units as outlined in subparts D, E, F, and G of part 250 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, on a per inspection basis. Fees for fiscal year 2020 shall be—

“(A) $13,260 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of 500 feet or more; and

“(B) $11,530 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths between 500 and 2,499 feet; and

“(C) $4,470 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

“(8) BILLING.—The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (5) annually, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (6) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days after billing.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of Prior Legislation” submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, is in order except those printed in part F of House Report 116-200. Each such further 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part F of House Report 116-200.

Mr. McClintock. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 12-13, strike “or the Pacific Region planning areas.”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from California (Mr. McClintock) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. McClintock. Mr. Chairman, this amendment removes the Pacific Coast for the total moratorium on oil exploration imposed under this legislation.

It will make my California Democratic colleagues’ heads explode, but there are also many other reasons to support this amendment.

California is already pursuing these Green New Deal policies pioneered by Jerry Brown and Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Californians are now paying among the highest electricity and gasoline prices in the country as a result.

In the last decade, while U.S. oil production has grown 120 percent, it has declined in California by 20 percent. In 2000, California produced 50 percent of the petroleum it consumed every year—50 percent. That figure is now down to 30 percent.

In 2000, California imported 25 percent of its oil from foreign countries. Today, it imports 60 percent. In just the last year, California’s oil purchases from Saudi Arabia ballooned from 98 million barrels to 135 million barrels. These foolish policies are contributing to one of the highest unemployment rates, the largest homeless population, and the highest effective poverty rate in our Nation.

Yet, leasing the 240 million acres that are currently off limits could support an additional 165,000 jobs and inject $15 billion into our economy every year.

President Trump reversed the Obama-era war on energy, and last year America became the largest petroleum producer on the planet, outpacing both Saudi Arabia and Russia for the first time.
These policies are also contributing to the lowest unemployment rates for Americans of African and Hispanic heritage in our Nation's history, rising wages after an entire lost decade of economic stagnation, and an overall rate of economic growth almost double what we are seeing in Europe or that we saw under the Obama Administration.

And let us consider the environment. California's coastal waters suffer from natural oil seepage of 86,000 barrels a year in the Pacific Ocean, the equivalent of one Santa Barbara oil spill every year. Development of our offshore resources reduces the pressure that produces seepage.

Having grown up in coastal Ventura County 50 years ago, I can tell you firsthand of the conspicuous decline in natural seepage that has occurred in the years since the Channel Islands field opened. And lest we forget, it is the abundance of natural gas that has reduced California's carbon dioxide emissions far below what expensive and oppressive government regulation has accomplished in Europe.

California leads the Nation?

Let me repeat. While our Nation's oil production is down 19 percent, California's is down 20 percent. While our Nation has achieved energy independence, California's reliance on foreign oil has more than doubled. That is trailing the Nation, not leading it.

My state, that has among the most bountiful oil and natural gas resources in the Nation, has the least political will to develop them. I offer this amendment to highlight this point and to warn the rest of the Nation where it is leading. And also—let's be honest—to watch my California Democratic colleagues set their hair on fire.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time so we can now watch. And I am ready to close when they are.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the impact that this amendment will have on Pacific Coast economies by strongly opposing it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I readied concede that this amendment is anathema to the ruling elite in Sacramento. They have had their way with California. They still advocate on the House floor today are the same policies they have inflicted on my once Golden State during my lifetime. Those policies have produced the highest effective poverty rate in the Nation; the second-highest energy prices in the country; and a historic exodus of Californians fleeing to other States.

The road to Venezuela leads through California, and I urge the rest of the Nation to ask themselves: Is that really a road they want to take?

We went down that road in the 1970s. The bill's author is, perhaps, too young to remember those dark days when our Nation was held hostage to foreign oil, when cars lined up for blocks to get gas and every meeting of the OPEC nations was a national crisis.

I check the daily AAA survey of gasoline prices. Today, in California, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline is $3.63. In South Carolina, it is $2.23. That is a $1.40-a-gallon difference, and I ask the bill's author from South Carolina to consider if his constituents are ready to enact California policies and then pay for them through the nozzle.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part F of House Report 116-200.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

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Put paragraph 1, beginning on line 2, strike ‘‘COASTAL AND MARINE ECONOMIES PROTECTION’’ and insert ‘‘RUSSIAN ENERGY RELIANCE AND UNITED STATES POVERTY’’.
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The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, 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. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that changes the title of this legislation to something more fitting, that being the ‘‘Russian Energy Reliance and United States Poverty Act.’’

The consequences of this legislation becoming law would have devastating, long-term impacts on the economic and national security of the United States. Putting both the Atlantic and Pacific Outer Continental Shelves permanently off-limits to oil and gas development puts the United States at a distinct disadvantage to the rest of the world.

We have already seen how policies from liberal States that are along the same lines of this legislation have caused certain parts of the country to become dependent upon Russian energy. New England, for example, was forced to import Russian natural gas in the wintertime because of the ludicrous decision by the State of New York not to allow pipelines to be built through the State.

The legislation before us today would have similar consequences. As existing oil and gas deposits begin to run dry, new deposits will need to be extracted, many of which are located on the Pacific and Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf.

Putting these deposits off-limits would cause us to go back to the old days of the old normal that had become

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Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I find it inordinate to support this amendment so that the American people are aware of the true ramifications of this misguided legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, this is a pointless amendment, and I am, frankly, a little bit embarrassed that we are even discussing this. Not only does it not improve the bill, but it is also based on a false premise.

Let’s be clear: We are not reliant on Russian energy, and the United States is not stricken by energy poverty. In fact, it is the complete opposite of the present reality.

The Atlantic and Pacific have remained off-limits to new oil and gas development for decades, but the United States now produces 12.3 million barrels of crude oil each day, which is an all-time U.S. record, and it produces the most in the world. It exports over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day, more than all but two members of OPEC exported in 2018.

We are the number three exporter of oil. We are also the number one producer of natural gas in the world, and we are a net exporter of natural gas.

Look, if we really want to lead in energy, we can take a bigger role in the production of renewable energy. Costs for renewable energy have plummeted, and our global competitors are jockeying to lead the world in clean energy development.

Unfortunately, Republicans seem to have dusted off the same tired talking points that they were using 10 years ago—and even longer, 20 years ago—before U.S. energy production skyrocketed.

Even worse, the Trump administration acts like it believes those talking points and continues to believe that the future lies in coal, oil, and gas.

Mr. Chair, this is a silly amendment, and it achieves nothing. For this reason, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I find it interesting that we are even debating this because, if it was such a poor decision, we have the Rules Committee should not have made it in order. So, there is compliance from the other side.

When we start looking at this aspect, we have to be truthful to the American people. The American people see the jargon that we actually come up with in this body, and they want to have a straightforward common sense. This is exactly what it should be titled because there is a very sorry story that belonged to the American people.

Yes, I am one of those who believes in all-of-the-above energy policies. What we have to tell them and explain to them is that there is a difference between baseload power and intermittent power.

Renewables do not have baseline power. To have a reliable electric grid that everybody depends upon, we have to have both. Green energy does not produce that application of baseload power, unless we are talking about hydro, and that we don’t even consider a green energy anymore, from the other side.

I think we need to be clear to the American people where these jobs are. They are good-paying jobs, $90,000 and above with benefits.

When we take away these types of reserves, it really is victimizing the American people. This is not something I want to do. I want to make sure that they are empowered.

These resources belong to the American people, and there is no reason why we shouldn’t be able to use them and extract them diligently and cleanly.

Mr. Chair, I ask everybody to vote for this, to be clear to the American public what this stands for, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I oppose the Gosaur amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. LESKO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part F of House Report 116-200.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

SEC. 5. RISK TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

The Secretary of the Interior, after consulting with the Secretary of Defense, shall report to Congress on whether this Act poses a risk to national security due to potential increase in dependence on foreign oil.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Chair, my amendment would require the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Defense, to report on whether the policies of this bill would put our national security at risk.

There are many reasons to support domestic energy production, many reasons to oppose the bans this bill proposes, but I believe chief among them is that harnessing the natural resources our country has been blessed with makes our Nation and our allies safer.

American energy production makes us less reliant on foreign actors. More American oil means we will less likely have to use Saudi Arabian oil. More American natural gas means our allies are less likely to rely upon Russian natural gas.

Our homes, factories, and vehicles need energy. Our allies need energy. As our world grows, so will our demand. Oil and natural gas are estimated to comprise 60 percent of global demand in 2050. The question is, where will the United States get it? Will we take it from our own shores, or will we rely on OPEC, whose Arab petroleum-exporting countries previously stopped oil shipments to the United States and caused gas prices to soar and threatened our national security.

I support an all-of-the-above approach, which includes solar, wind, hydropower, nuclear, and coal. I also support domestic oil and natural gas. I believe an all-of-the-above energy approach benefits American pocketbooks and quality of life and, especially, our security.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of my amendment because I believe our government should fully understand the security risks these bans in these bills pose, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The CHAIR. The CHAIR. The CHAIR. (Mr. LAWSON of Florida). Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, we do not have any concerns with the amendment and do not believe it undermines the underlying legislation.

Furthermore, it is our firm belief that, if the Department of the Interior were to consult with the Defense Department, they would find H.R. 1941 poses no national security risk to the United States.

The underlying bill does not affect a single producing offshore lease, and oil and gas companies now have tremendous opportunities to develop in the United States.

Let’s be clear: The United States offers nearly 80 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico for new leasing every year, and companies now hold only 13 million acres of the Gulf under lease, which means that 72 percent of the acres that have been offered are not yet developed.
Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Chair, I thank Representative LOWENTHAL, my colleague from California, and thank my other Democratic colleagues, I think this is a commonsense amendment, and it sounds like the gentleman approves of it.

Mr. Chair, I think it is common sense, and I am hopeful that it will be voted on with “yes.” I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part F of House Report 116–200.

Mr. LANGEVIN. 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:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 5. STUDYING THE IMPACTS OF OFFSHORE DRILLING ON COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND COASTAL ECONOMIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the impacts of offshore drilling on coastal communities and coastal economies.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) address how oil and gas companies interact with local stakeholders in advance of a siting decision, including their meetings with fishermen;

(2) investigate the impacts of offshore drilling on tourism, including tradeoffs during normal operations and economic impacts after a spill;

(3) describe how the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management works with other agencies, the National Marine Fisheries Service, to include stakeholder input in advance of a siting decision;

(4) address how quickly response teams can mitigate environmental damage after a spill and how long regional ecosystems take to recover following a spill;

(5) describe any limitations on the quantity of comparative data available on impacts to regions of the Outer Continental Shelf that have not been sited for drilling;

(6) describe the impacts on commercial and recreational fisheries from offshore drilling; and

(7) address the economic impacts of oil spills on the food supply of a region, including those food sources that are distinctive to a region’s culture.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, the Atlantic Coast has never been a site of significant offshore drilling, and for good reason. In my home State of Rhode Island and all along the coast, we know the importance of these waters to tourism and to the fisheries that they sustain. Indeed, waterways are part of our way of life. It is part of our identity and who we are.

This amendment will instruct GAO to perform a study on the costs and the impacts of drilling on the coastal communities and their economies. This study will address how oil and gas companies interact with local stakeholders, including fishermen. It will explore how the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management works with other Federal agencies during siting. It will examine how response teams have reacted to offshore oil spills and the cost of those spills to tourism and the food supply of the affected region.

And finally, it will analyze the caliber of the data that we have on hand today regarding these undrilled areas of the Outer Continental Shelf, and whether such data can be reliably used to gauge the impact of proposed drilling.

These are all questions that have arisen during my conversations with fishermen, tourism leaders, and other Rhode Islanders deeply concerned about the risks of drilling off our coast.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that offshore drilling puts the safety of our waterways at risk, which we have seen from numerous spills over the years, including the devastating Deepwater Horizon blowout.

We owe it to those who live in our coastal communities to be honest about the damage that such drilling can cause to them.

Mr. Chairman, it will take decades to recover from an incident like the one we experienced with Deepwater Horizon spill. While the news cycle eventually moves on, the coastal communities and the people that are affected have to deal with the consequences and often continue to suffer.

That is why I am so interested in moving forward this amendment today, so that we can properly understand the full costs of drilling off our coast.

I would like to thank Congressman CONNEMARA from South Carolina for sponsoring the underlying bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it and my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. This amendment is perhaps well-intentioned. I am going to make that assumption. But the problem with this amendment is it is not a comprehensive amendment.

The goal of this amendment is to specifically illustrate what kinds of issues will be studied by this GAO report, and they are all the negative aspects that could come from this report.

There is no aspect here, I mean, it neglects totally to try and set any kind of benefits that would happen from development of oil or gas consumer. Now, that would be a true study. That would be a fair study. That would be a good study. That would be a valuable study.

What this has done, in a statement of what you should have done is simply direct the GAO to evaluate how taking resources off the table like this will affect our dependence on imports from foreign actors like Russia, whose environmental standards, whose efficiency standards, and whose human rights standards certainly are unacceptable to us in the United States. Doing so—if you had done that, that would have been a comprehensive, that would have been an accurate representation, and that would have been a good and decent study.

So I oppose this particular amendment because I think it missed the mark.

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his comments and his insights. I see that this amendment gets exactly the right information that we need. I am certainly not opposed to the gentleman’s suggestion, and if at a later date he is going to offer such additional information to be gathered by GAO, I would certainly like to look at it and perhaps even support it.

But this is the amendment that we have before us. I believe it is well thought out. Again, it is a GAO study to perform—to look at the costs and the impacts of drilling on coastal communities, which my community would be directly affected, and how they would be affected and their economies. And I think having more information is better. I think this hits the right mark, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, in the original speech the gentleman from Rhode Island said he yielded back the balance of his time. Had he not yielded in the first speech?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I reserved the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I am sorry. Had that actually been said after the first speech, I would have reserved. But I have yielded back. I am done with this. Up to the gentleman’s suggestion, I would urge the gentleman to yield back and we will go on with the vote.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have said everything I need to say, and I will yield the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).
The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part F of House Report 116–200.

Mr. ROUDA. 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 1, after line 3, insert the following:

SEC. 2. PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION RESULTS.

Section 22(c) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The”; and

(2) by adding at the end following:

“(b) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make available to the public any reports produced under this subsection.

“(1) The amount of the payment.

On page 1, line 4, strike “2” and insert “3”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chairman, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act requires existing offshore oil and gas operations to undergo inspections and make payments into the Ocean Energy Safety Fund. My amendment would make this information available to the public.

The Trump administration’s 2018 proposed opening of more than 90 percent of U.S. Federal waters to offshore oil and gas could endanger at least 42,000 miles of our Atlantic and Pacific coasts to the extreme risks posed by offshore drilling and spills.

I came to Congress to advocate on behalf of the people living in my coastal district. The American people have a vested interest in the health of their environment and the wealth of their local communities. It is essential that the public is aware of the companies who are extracting oil from our shores so that we can hold them accountable in the event of a disaster or an accident.

Offshore drilling impacts more than just coastal communities; it impacts future generations of Americans. Transparency is a key democratic principle. Citizens deserve to know which companies are drilling off our shores, the location of their facilities, and the safety and state of their operations.

In Orange County, this critical legislation helps make sure generations can come and continue to sail Newport Harbor, become junior lifeguards, surf the Wedge, catch halibut, and enjoy our pristine breaches.

This legislation is essential to maintaining our quality of life, and I thank my colleague from South Carolina for his leadership.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my amendment and passage of this bill.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I guess kind of in opposition. It really is not in opposition to the amendment in and of itself, except it illustrates some of the problems the Democrats have in creating this approach to an energy policy coming through here, because the inspection fees that we have mandated by the amendment, if you tie that focus and tack it itself, really are based on politics and not the cost of the administration of this particular inspection. In fact, it actually no longer becomes a cost of a service; it actually becomes a tax levied on the committee.

What it illustrates is a deeper problem on how the Democrats decided to put these three bills up here on their energy week, and it also maybe indicates why they don’t really expect it to go any further, because the offsets are so bizarre.

In each of the bills, the Democrats have decided to use—the rules require an offset. In each of the bills, there is a different offset that is required. For the one that we will talk about tomorrow, it is going to be $900 million. I think this one is $400 million. The next one is $200 million. And in each bill, the Democrats have decided to use the same offset to pay for each bill.

Now, ironically, if you did the one tomorrow and then you paid for the bill with that offset, you would have taken that off the table. But that is not good enough. Now we are using that same offset money to pay for this particular bill.

I am sorry. This is simply an accounting smoke and mirrors trick that is being used by the Democrats to actually get these three bills onto the floor.

For that, I don’t really mind it, per se, because it doesn’t affect the impact of it. It is not of it, but it is trying to cover the bases and check the boxes and using money in double and triple amounts.

If this offset is actually the way we are doing offsets in the future, then my parks bill doesn’t have a problem going forward because we can use this money for that at the same time.

Although, it is ironic that the money that they are going to use to offset these bills will be reduced because you are stopping the energy production in all of these areas. Everything comes together in some particular way.

This is cute. It is not necessarily effective, but it is cute, and it is not the way the rules for offsets were intended to try and bring clarity to the situation within the House.

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

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleague’s comments, and I do appreciate, I think, and I hear from him that the other side does support transparency and accountability, which is welcomed in today’s atmosphere of politics to have greater transparency and accountability.

I am prepared to close, but I will preserve the balance of my time until my colleague is prepared to close as well.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I will make it easier for him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUDA. I yield back the balance of my time as well, Mr. Chair. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part F of House Report 116–200.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. 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:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5. MORATORIUM ON SEISMIC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OIL, GAS, AND METHANE HYDRATE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND STRAITS OF FLORIDA PLANNING AREAS.

Section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (41 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) MORATORIUM ON SEISMIC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OIL, GAS, AND METHANE HYDRATE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND STRAITS OF FLORIDA PLANNING AREAS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agency of the United States or person may conduct or authorize any other person to conduct geological or geophysical activities in support of oil, gas, or methane hydrate exploration and development in any area located in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida Planning Areas of the outer Continental Shelf.”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, my bipartisan amendment establishes a moratorium on seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean.

I would like to begin by thanking my friends, Chairman LOWENTHAL, Chairman GRIJALVA, and Congressman CUNNINGHAM, for leading this bill and for working with me on this provision. I also thank my cosponsors, Congressmen SMITH, BEYER, and VAN DREW, for
their partnership and for their long-standing commitments to leading on this issue.

During seismic testing, ships pull giant airguns through the ocean that release loud, pressurized blasts of air into the water to detect gas leaks. But the evidence from scientists tells us that noise from these airguns can disturb, injure, or kill marine animals from zooplankton, the base of the food web, all the way up to large whales. In addition, airgun noise can reduce the fish population and their essential behaviors in marine mammals, including dolphins and whales.

I believe we need to be building a clean energy future, but seismic airgun blasts lay the groundwork for more dangerous fossil fuel extraction that is bad for our economy and for the environment.

I am proud to support H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act, because I share the concerns of so many of my own constituents who have reached out to me urging Congress to reject proposals that open our waters and coastlines to expanded offshore drilling.

In the 7 years following the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, the U.S. oil and gas industry experienced more than 4,000 explosions, collisions, and related incidents, including 34 oil spills of more than 2,000 gallons each.

This bill will help us end these disasters once and for all, and I thank my friend Congressman CUNNINGHAM for his leadership here. My bipartisan amendment takes an extra step to make this legislation stronger yet.

Even if we ban offshore drilling, the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, BOEM, could still issue permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic. We know, for example, that BOEM is currently reviewing applications from seismic testing for oil and gas beneath the Atlantic Ocean floor.

A legal prohibition on seismic testing, which my amendment includes, is the surest way to prevent such testing in the Atlantic, protecting our environment, marine life, and the health, safety, and livelihoods of millions of people involved in tourism, recreation, fishing, and associated sectors. My bipartisan amendment is about saving the whales for sure, but it is also about saving people, saving our economy, and saving our planet.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to this amendment simply because the seismic activity that we are talking about has not been updated since the 1980s. So the biggest problem we have in here is, if you are going to do it with the Atlantic, you are doing this in the darkness of not actually understanding or knowing what the scientific results will be, and this will eliminate that permanently.

So the technology for seismic studies has improved significantly over the years and is getting better at all times, but I don’t know how this, underlying bill stopped production on these lands, and this amendment would stop any scientific study to know what we could have done or what we should do at this time.

But it is a little bit more insidious than that because this amendment only stops seismic study for oil and gas development; it doesn’t stop seismic study for anything else.

So, if indeed, the argument is that the seismic study hurts the animals, that Flipper is offended by these seismic studies, all this amendment does is say Flipper can be offended and harmed if you are going to put in a windmill, but Flipper can’t be offended and harmed if you are going to put in an oil rig. That doesn’t really make any sense. In other words, we won’t do the study, whether Flipper is going to be offended. For all we know, Flipper is out there laughing at us right now for going through this silly exercise.

But this amendment is not comprehensive, it doesn’t meet the need, and it stops us once again from doing any science to know about it. So once again, this bill, these approaches, this is politics. This is not science. This is not policy. For that reason, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for his comments. I would only point out that the seismic testing involved in preparing for possible offshore wind is orders of magnitude less disruptive. It is not at all comparable to the seismic testing done for oil and gas exploration, and it doesn’t have an anywhere similar level of harm, and that is why it is a different approach.

I appreciate the gentleman’s comments, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

Part of this body’s responsibility is the public charge of looking at the resources of the American people. These resources do not belong to a single State, whether it be South Carolina, California, New Jersey, Wyoming or anything else. These are the public charge of the American people to this body of Congress and part of the public charge is to understand what type of resources and the value those resources have to that public charge in regard to the people of this country.

So doing our due diligence, it is a mandatory aspect that we undertake this charge to understand what that responsibility is to the American people. In some of the next amendments, you will actually see some of that public charge in that regard.

This is an undertaking that is specifically null and void based upon what we owe the American people for the due diligence of this body in regard to the ownership of these lands, which they have of the Outer Continental Shelf. The magnitude is of inconsequential application. I ask everybody to vote against this amendment.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEVER), my esteemed colleague.

Mr. BEVER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. LEVIN, for his leadership on this amendment.

I have been invested in this issue throughout my time in Congress, and earlier this year my Republican colleague, Chris Smith, and I introduced the Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act, a standalone bill that would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil, gas, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida. This amendment would do just that.

Our coastal economy relies on healthy ocean ecosystems that generate $95 billion in gross domestic product every year and support nearly 1.4 million jobs every year.

Seismic blasting poses a major threat to marine life, including endangered North Atlantic right whale, which is on the verge of extinction. Because they are extremely loud, these dynamite-like blasts are likely to have significant, long-lasting, widespread impacts on the behavior and survival of fish and marine mammal populations. If these are impacted, it is a serious danger to our coastal economies.

This amendment will protect our marine life and our coastal economies, and I encourage my colleagues to vote ‘yes’ on this amendment.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for his tremendous leadership on this issue.

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

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

Once again, as we talk about seismic, realize there is a different approach to it. Not this administration, but the prior administration, it is no scientific policy that says any seismic study actually hurts any of the animals, whether it is for fossil fuels or it is for alternative types of energy.

But the issue at hand is, if you are going to try and deny any seismic so you don’t have any studies and we are going to go in the darkness and not really know what we are talking about, then you do it for everything. To try and distinguish between oil and gas and alternatives is simply an arbitrary reason that has no purpose in being there.

However, if the underlying bill passes and you are not going to be drilling
there anyway—in which case we basically say as a Congress we don't care about understanding what we are doing, we are just thinking it is the right thing to do, so we will go ahead and do it—this is bad policy. It is bad policy for the underlying bill. It is bad policy for the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Levin-Beyer-Smith-Van Drew amendment to H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Protection Act. This amendment, which I'm proud to cosponsor, would ensure that H.R. 1941 not only proscribes future oil and gas leases of the Outer Continental Shelf in the Atlantic and Pacific planning areas but also prohibits any seismic activities in the Atlantic Ocean planning areas.

Seismic activities are performed to first test for the possibility of oil and gas but in and of themselves, these activities pose countless risks to marine life and, by extension, our fishing industries and the health of our coastal ecosystems. Seismic airgun blasting in particular can deafen or seriously maim marine wildlife which rely upon sonar power for movement and can significantly affect local fish populations, which in turn harms New Jersey's fisheries as well as the fishing industry—a vital contributor to the economic well-being of my district on the Jersey Shore.

I have continuously stated my strong opposition to offshore drilling and have made it clear that the people of New Jersey do not want oil rigs offshore, and we do not want our pristine beaches and waters at risk from oil spills.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment to H.R. 1941 and to support the underlying bill.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part II of the House Report 116-200.

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:

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 2 of this Act shall not be effective until the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs.

Under the current administration, unemployment has reached record lows. In August, the national unemployment rate sat at 3.7 percent, with the unemployment rate for African American workers sitting at 5.5 percent, but that number plummets the record of 5.9 percent which was set in May of 2018 under the same administration.

According to a recent jobs report from The Washington Post—hardly a bastion of conservative credentialing—nearly the percentage of the jobs added under this administration have gone to minority communities. This is astounding. This can be attributed to the first time a majority of new hires are people between the ages of 25 and 54, and they are from the minority communities.

According to statistics published by the American Petroleum Institute, minorities will comprise one-third of the workforce in the oil and gas sector by 2030 and already comprise more than 15 percent of the oil and gas workforce. These are good-paying jobs, paying $90,000, that hardworking families depend upon.

This legislation puts these employment opportunities at risk by putting off limits potentially viable and valuable offshore energy opportunities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico that are the property of the American people.

For the first time since the 1950s, the United States will soon be a net exporter of oil and natural gas, something that at one time was unthinkable. America's energy renaissance has boosted the economies of previously left-behind towns throughout the country and turned them into vibrant communities.

Mr. Chairman, this common sense amendment protects minority and women jobs and puts the interests of the American workforce first and foremost. It is very clear-cut, something that the American people can fully understand.

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. Chair, this amendment has nothing to with it is simply an attempt to block protections for the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts, and it is based upon a false concern for women and minorities' jobs.

We know that Members from both sides of the aisle understand that our existing coastal economies are incompatible with more offshore oil and gas development. I believe that enacting this underlying bill and protecting the Atlantic and Pacific coast from the dangers of offshore drilling will, in itself, create jobs in the coastal tourism and recreational industries, many of which are held by women and people of color.

For example, thriving fish stocks and healthy marine mammals off the coasts of Oregon, New Jersey, Maryland, and Florida support tackle shops, whale watching tours, and seafood markets.

Oil-free beaches and bays in Virginia and the Carolinas drive business for local restaurants, vacation rentals, and outfitters.

People from all walks of life, from diverse backgrounds, and from both political parties cherish these special places and rely on healthy oceans, clean beaches, and the abundant fish and wildlife that come with it.

For example, last week, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast wrote to this body and expressed its strong support for the underlying bill. According to the business coalition, which represents more than 4,000 businesses along the West Coast, offshore drilling threatens nearly 746,000 jobs and nearly $53 billion in GDP.

The real threat to jobs and economic opportunities in coastal communities would be failing to protect permanently our shorelines from dangerous oil drilling.

This is an unserious amendment that does nothing to protect jobs belonging to women and minorities, and it keeps the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts at risk.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I urge opposition to the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I thought I thought I heard that this has nothing to do with the bill. If that is the case, I take umbrage with that, and maybe we ought to take it up with the Parliamentarian. The majority actually put this in order, so I think it does pertain to this bill.

I also heard that we can't have our cake and eat it too, that it is all about visitation and enjoying the outdoors. How does that work for Wyoming? How does that work for Colorado? How does that work for New Mexico? How does that work for Arizona? We actually have our cake and can eat it too.

Once again, I remind everybody that these are the property of the American people, not of individual States.

I get it. You are closest to this, so you are implicated in some way or form. But I also want to remind you that, particularly in the Pacific, natural slicks of oil exist naturally. It is something that nature actually takes care of. With that aspect, it is very important.

The power of a job is very, very important. It empowers people. It doesn't victimize them. It is very important that we are astute as to where we are putting people to work.

By the way, if we don't have good jobs, how can we travel to go visit these wonderful sites, enjoy a boat ride going out and fishing in those areas?

When you start to look at some of our stoutest, bountiful areas of these areas, look no further than Alaska, one of the most plentiful, bountiful areas for fish and wildlife. People come from
around the world to see that, yet they have their cake and eat it too.

Once again, I want to make sure that people are empowered with these good-paying jobs, particularly those of minority, those of gender. These are important applications that facilitate upward mobility of people.

This is a very timely amendment, something that is vastly overdue. We need to consider the consequences when we do actions that are consequential.

Mr. Chair, this is a very timely amendment. I ask everybody to vote for this amendment.

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment, and 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 amendment was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. 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 Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part F of House Report 116-200.

Mr. ROUDA. 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:

SEC. 5. ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a study to determine the potential economic impact of offshore drilling on tourism, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, boating, transportation, and other waterfront-related and coastal-related business.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chair, this amendment is a provision of the bill that would require the Department of Commerce to complete an economic impact study of potential damage related to offshore drilling. This assessment would include tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, boating, transportation, and other waterfront-related and coastal-related businesses.

The 1989 Santa Barbara oil spill, which was once the largest oil spill in United States waters and now ranks third after Deepwater Horizon and the 1989 Exxon Valdez spills, killed thousands of birds and marine animals. Commercial fishing was suspended, and tourism plunged.

California’s economic drivers are concentrated along California’s coastline, and an oil spill from a Federal platform, pipeline, or barge transporting oil would have a catastrophic impact on California’s and the Nation’s economy and natural resources. In fact, 40 percent of all goods shipped into the United States come through the Long Beach and Los Angeles ports of entry, and these goods go to all 435 districts across the United States. Every community would be impacted.

Offshore oil and gas threatens key economic drivers in coastal districts and States. Disasters on the scale of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, one of the largest environmental disasters in American history, cost our country more than $60 billion in economic damages and environmental damages beyond calculation.

Let’s not lose sight that even a small spill has the potential to devastate important coastal resources and the communities and businesses that depend on them.

California is home to more than 800 miles of coastline, and its coastal economies annually generate hundreds of billions of dollars in wages nationally and nearly $2 trillion in GDP. A disaster could put at risk nearly 746,000 West Coast jobs and $33 billion of GDP that rely on healthy ocean ecosystems and a clean marine environment.

Mr. Chair, I represent Representative CUNNINGHAM for his leadership on this important issue and the efforts to protect our coasts from new oil and gas leasing. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my amendment and the passage of this critical piece of legislation.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, clearly, the best thing that can be said about this amendment is it is the last one of this particular bill, and we can move on.

The negative part that I have to say about this amendment is the same thing I said about the other amendments. It is a study that is halfway there, somehow, however; it doesn’t cover all elements that should be studied; and in fact, it will produce a skewed result because of what narrowly comes within it.

There should be a study that says what jobs will or will not happen from this. That would be a study. That would be a portion of it that would be worth it. But it is not covered in what we are attempting to do here.

In fact, if you think about it, this is kind of a bizarre approach to things. Why would we have a base bill to be passed that will ban this activity, and then we are going to institute a whole bunch of studies to see if we should have done the base bill in the first place. This is totally backward in the way bills should be done.

If the gentleman really believed in the study and wanted to get the data, for heaven’s sake, do that before introducing a bill that bans the activity in the first place.

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

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chair, I appreciate my colleague’s comments, but I do want to point out the purpose of this is simply to make sure that if we are going to entertain offshore leases, we fully understand the economic impact in the event of a potential disaster occurring. That seems to be a reasonable obligation of Members of Congress to taxpayers of America and working families across America, to make sure that we protect them against future environmental disasters.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, once again, same thing: It is superfluous.

Mr. 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. ROUDA).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR of Florida) having assumed the chair, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole, reported that the Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1941) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any lease, program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PROTECTING AND SECURING FLORIDA’S COASTLINE ACT OF 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

September 11, 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 205.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 548 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. 205.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON) 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. 205) to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, with Mr. LAWSON of Florida in the chair.

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

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.
The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

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

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act, would permanently protect the eastern Gulf of Mexico from oil and gas drilling.

Nearly all of the eastern Gulf remains protected under a leasing moratorium until 2022 under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. This bill would permanently extend that moratorium and, in doing so, would safeguard Florida’s marine resources, environment, and coastal tourism economy.

Some of Florida’s more valuable assets are tied to its beaches and its coastal ecosystems. These drive a tourism economy in Florida that brings in billions of dollars each year and supports over 1.4 million jobs.

Over 2,000 Florida businesses, including restaurants, hotels, and outfitters, have expressed their strong support for permanently protecting the eastern Gulf because they know firsthand the economic consequences of an offshore oil spill.

Following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, Florida suffered a $7.6 billion loss in tourism revenue, and bookings for hotels and for-hire fishing trips dropped significantly. Even for places that were left unsathed, the perception of oil-covered shores was enough to redirect vacationing tourists to other coastal states. That is why voters in the Sunshine State, Democrats and Republicans alike, have made clear time and time again that offshore drilling has no place near Florida’s shores.

The eastern Gulf of Mexico also has incredible varieties of a military test and training range, and enactment of H.R. 205 is critical for America’s national security and military preparedness.

In 2015, the Department of Defense determined that offshore oil and gas in the eastern Gulf of Mexico would jeopardize the military’s ability to conduct operations in the region.

Even the Trump administration, which bends over backwards to support the oil and gas industry, understands how deeply unpopular offshore drilling is in Florida and has manipulated the offshore leasing process for political reasons.

Five days after proposing to offer all of America’s coastal oil and gas-producing areas for leasing, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke rushed down to Tallahassee to meet with then-Governor Rick SCOTT. Understanding that Governor Scott was facing a tough Senate race but could never oppose anything from the Trump administration, Secretary Zinke tweeted that he was “removing Florida from the draft offshore plan” at the Governor’s behest.

However, Secretary Zinke was contradicted less than 2 weeks later when a top Interior Department official stated that Florida was, in fact, still under consideration for offshore leasing. Then, at one of our hearings in the Natural Resources Committee, Secretary Zinke seemed to say that Florida was both safe yet still being considered.

The problem for Secretary Zinke was that the oil and gas industry really wants to drill in the eastern Gulf, and this administration wants to do whatever it can to support this industry wants. But the people of Florida do not want the industry near their shores, and this administration needs Florida to vote for it next year.

So now the administration has paused the new leasing program because they can’t show their true intentions before the next election. With a wink and a nod towards industry, the administration has paused their plans for new leasing. But it is only a sham disguised to convince Florida that it is safe, while also making it clear to the industry that, if they get a second term, the eastern Gulf will be open for drilling.

In May, I wrote to Interior Secretary Bernhardt requesting a copy of the leasing program as it currently exists so we could settle the debate over whether Florida was in or out. Unsurprisingly, Secretary Bernhardt has failed to turn over that plan.

The fact is that Florida’s beaches will not be safe from the threat of offshore drilling until we have passed the two bills we are debating today: this one to protect Florida’s Gulf Coast and H.R. 1941 to protect Florida’s Atlantic Coast.

Florida voters should not have to worry over the next 16 months whether drilling rigs will one day appear on the horizon. H.R. 205 provides Florida’s Gulf Coast permanent protection from offshore oil drilling and deserves this body’s full support.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have three bills in this package of supposed Democrat energy. This is different than the other time.

In the last bill we were talking about here on the floor—at least the five people who actually were here on the floor to talk about it—that was an ideological approach. This is different. This deals with the military. This deals with military issues on water that is leased and puts off limits for its military purpose.

There are military bases of significance in Florida, specifically Eglin. There is a military test and training range on the waters in Florida. They are important to protect, and, indeed, they need to be preserved for our military.

If, indeed, the military has an area that is essential to military preparedness and readiness, we should be cognizant of that. There is no problem with that. The problem was in this military line, it was simply arbitrarily drawn.

You take the latitude and the longitude and you just go down the line, which means the line itself, is bizarre and arbitrary. The line, itself, is actually closer to New Orleans than it is to Florida. The line, itself, has a greater impact on the economies of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana than it does in Florida.

What we should have done, were we wise in this process, is to try to seek some kind of variance to make sure that the science was actually used and that we don’t just take a ruler and draw a straight line on some map. Already in the areas that are west of this line—the other things that are already open for oil and gas exploration—there is cooperation between the Interior Department and the Department of Defense in how you do it.

Thirty-six percent of all the drilling that is done in the rest of the Gulf is already under some kind of stipulation with the Department of Defense. In fact, there is a memo of understanding between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior that has been there since 1983 which mandates they cooperate and they consult and they work through these things in an appropriate way.

Were something like that to be part of this bill, I know I could support it.

And to everyone else who is on the floor, I would argue to do the same thing. The sad part is this bill doesn’t do that. Instead, it simply locks up the floor, I would argue to do the same thing. The sad part is this bill doesn’t do that. Instead, it simply locks up the issue on the one line that happens to be there.

Now, here is where I don’t blame any one seated on the floor, the six of us who actually are here. I do blame the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee made a very bad rule and abused some of the powers that the Rules Committee has to deal with it. Not only did they make several amendments self-executing—and, I am sorry, I was on the Rules Committee for a long time, I thought when we did that, that was a bad policy. But it was also lousy policy in this rule to make some of the amendments self-executing.
But then they forgot other amendments that could have brought something into conclusion so that we could simply say, if there is a military reason, then, yes, and allow the military to make that decision. That would have been fine. I would have bought, and I would have been happy to support this particular bill.

But instead, the Rules Committee insisted that there be miscellaneous amendments that have nothing to do with bringing a bill here and that they have nothing to do to try to bring some kind of cooperation together.

So we are now faced with a bill that will be done on an arbitrary line without study. It will be done on an arbitrary line without science being given to it. It will be an arbitrary line that will simply call everything out simply because somebody drew a line on a map without thinking about it.

It is a fact, and it would be the way. That is the sad part about this particular bill.

I respect the sponsor of this particular bill. I respect what he is trying to do. I agree with most of what he is trying to do. But this could have been a much better bill. This could have been a bill that I could support and I think most other people could support and we could move forward, that would have a much better option and chance of actual passage in the Senate as well as passage by a President who would sign it, rather than actually putting forth an SAP which indicates that he would be advised to veto it. That did not happen.

The reason it is not happening in a better way is simply because the Rules Committee refused some of the options that were in front of them, and they should have done it. They could have done it. They could have done it. It would be a better situation than what they had done.

So, in this situation, because we now have a bill which, once again, takes science and throws it into the trash can like the other bill did and like the next one tomorrow will do, I have a bill here which I have to oppose, and it did not have to be that way in the long run.

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

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY), the original sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act, which makes the existing moratorium in the eastern Gulf permanent.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Representative CASTOR, our colead, for coleading this effort with me and our bipartisan Florida delegation for their support.

I have talked repeatedly about the existential threat offshore drilling poses to us on the west coast of Florida. It jeopardizes our tourist and recreational economy.

Last year, 70 percent of Floridians voted to ban offshore drilling because tourism accounts for $37.4 billion of GDP, including $17.5 billion right there on the Gulf Coast, and supports over 600,000 jobs.

Following the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the west coast of Florida faced lost economic value for commercial and recreational fishing and many canceled tourist trips, despite the fact that there was no impact to our coastline. Persecution.

A 2018 study by the Gulf Restoration Network describes the continual spills in the Gulf. The Taylor Energy leak, for example, has released approximately 1 million gallons of oil over the last 14 years. Even Shell, which is a good operator, had a spill from a jumper pipeline in 2016 that dumped 1,900 barrels of oil into the Gulf. The following year, LLOG had a similar leak that dumped as much as 9,350 barrels into the Gulf.

As long as humans and complex pipeline and well bore connections are involved, there will be significant environmental risk. These undersea connections are difficult to maintain and examine.

Additionally, as documented in a study by the Pew Research Center, large quantities of bentonite and other chemicals are released in the water while drilling.

My colleagues have raised concerns about energy security and energy independence. That is an important thing. As this export-import chart shows, we are energy independent, and we have come net energy exporters. It was radically different. Ten years ago, these big lines were coming that way, now they are coming that way.

The exploitation of shale deposits via horizontal drilling coupled with hydraulic fracking has revolutionized the energy industry. Once again, our American free enterprise system has brought competitive innovation to energy to change the game.

In the Permian Basin of west Texas, for example, there are three shale zones. One of them, the Wolfcamp, is said to contain 20 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids—yes, billion. We have more reserves in the United States now than Russia or Saudi Arabia have in conventional reserves. A radical shift in the import and export flows of oil and gas has taken place due to American innovation.

In addition to the compelling economic case for making the moratorium in the eastern Gulf permanent, the eastern Gulf is the home of the Gulf Test Range, a 120,000-square-mile range that stretches from the Florida Panhandle to Key West. This unimpeded range has critical national security asset. It cannot be replicated anywhere else in the United States—or possibly the world. Its large scale supports testing of hypersonic weapons, drones, weapons testing, and evolving weapons technology that need space for testing and restrictions for classified work.

In May 2018, the DOD published a report, “Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.” This report examines the ongoing operations of the Gulf Test Range, its inability to coexist with oil and gas operations, and its projected usage of the range.

What this chart shows here is that the projected use of the range—here is the line right here, south of Eglin Air Force Base, Alabama is way over here. It is not Alabama. It is Destin, Florida. It shows that the most intensive projected use in the foreseeable future for this testing range is right out here, smack dab next to the military mission line. We can’t let this thing move an inch east.

This is why we need to ban drilling east of the line. In 2006, this moratorium was enacted by a bipartisan Congress, President George W. Bush, and aided and abetted by Governor Jeb Bush, and I might say, Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez teamed up on this.

As we look forward to extending this moratorium now, we are a unified team in Florida House delegation, working with Senator Rubio and Governor DeSantis. We have been doing that for some time on a combined strategy.

All of them agree that we must protect this national security asset in Florida’s coastline. As we look forward, we will work together to convince President Trump of the critical importance of this moratorium for Florida.

Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Natural Resources Committee Chairman GRIJALVA have all stepped up and committed to protect Florida. Now we need the Senate and the administration to do the same thing.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 205, which is hostile to U.S. energy production and unnecessarily takes domestic resources off the table.

This legislation overly restricts offshore exploration and development, which would eliminate opportunities to create jobs, grow the economy, and increase U.S. energy development to lower prices for consumers.

In fiscal year 2018, offshore oil and gas development generated over $3 billion for the United States Treasury, and over $200 million for the Gulf Coast, and supports over 600,000 jobs.

Following the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the west coast of Florida faced lost economic value for commercial and recreational fishing and many canceled tourist trips, despite the fact that there was no impact to our coastline. Persecution.

In 2006, this moratorium was enacted by a bipartisan Congress, President George W. Bush, and aided and abetted by Governor Jeb Bush, and I might say, Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez teamed up on this.

As we look forward to extending this moratorium now, we are a unified team in Florida House delegation, working with Senator Rubio and Governor DeSantis. We have been doing that for some time on a combined strategy.

All of them agree that we must protect this national security asset in Florida’s coastline. As we look forward, we will work together to convince President Trump of the critical importance of this moratorium for Florida.

Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Natural Resources Committee Chairman GRIJALVA have all stepped up and committed to protect Florida. Now we need the Senate and the administration to do the same thing.

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their cold drinks, and provides the power for the manufacturing processes when they are in their district.

Admiral Mike Mullen said that there is no national security without energy security. I firmly believe in that. We are going to weaken our national security by taking our oil off the table for exploration and production. What that means is, we are going to be more reliant on foreign sources of energy.

I talked about New England States receiving oil from Russia to provide natural gas, which we have an abundance of here in this country, but New England States are getting natural gas from Russia. I find that horrid and abysmal when we have the resources in this country to provide the energy to meet our needs.

Instead of focusing on anti-energy bills like H.R. 205, we should be pursuing policies that encourage safe, reliable, and affordable energy to the American people through free-market solutions.

We are in an American energy renaissance thanks to President Trump and Republicans’ pro-growth policies, and anti-offshore bills like H.R. 205 hamper these hard-earned gains. Taking domestic exploration off the table would mean one thing—I reiterate—reliance on foreign energy, and that is wrong when we have the resources here in this country.

We should explore. We should find. We should develop. We should produce. We should benefit from those productions. And we should benefit from the royalties that come back to the States and the United States Treasury. To fund things like the Land and Water Conservation Fund that sets land aside for posterity funded through royalties through oil and gas production off-shore. How are you going to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund if you take those royalties off the table? I tell America, what they are going to impact us for decades to come is going to impact us for decades to come.

It is a pleasure to be here on the floor with my Republican colleague, FRANCIS GRIJALVA for being a champion for our way of life is at risk when you put oil rigs off of our beaches.

It threatens our way of life. And the gentleman understands very well, as a successful businessman, that when you threaten our way of life, and you threaten our natural environment and our beaches, you are threatening our economy and jobs. Even after what was 9 years ago, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster is still fresh in my mind, and it is fresh in the minds of my neighbors who live all across the Gulf Coast. It was devastating. It wreaked havoc not just on Florida’s economy and not just on our beautiful environment, but on people’s lives. I remember very well holding a woman in my arms who was a small business owner from the Clearwater area. The oil didn’t even wash up on the shores of Tampa Bay or the beautiful Pinellas coast beaches, or down to Sanibel Island, but the economy took a hit. They lost everything they had.

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Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this bill and my colleagues’ efforts to impede the rapid growth of American energy exploration. This bill is flawed in a number of ways, as we have recounted here already during this debate.

First and foremost, it is clear that banning energy exploration will increase the prices that families pay at the pump and the prices they pay to power their homes.

Unfortunately, the tax on our Nation’s energy producers aren’t new. We know what happens when government intervenes by imposing burdensome regulations and senseless moratoriums like we are seeing today.

For years, New England States have pushed restrictive energy policies, and what we are considering here on the floor is no exception.

A handful of Governors and State legislatures are narrowly focused on hindering the exploration and development of critical energy resources. What those we are considering in are increased prices for consumers, and they have done nothing to reduce demands for fossil fuels.

In fact, as Congressman DUNCAN recounted just a few moments ago, last year, those policies culminated in a Russian tanker delivering natural gas to the Boston Harbor. Why? Because there weren’t enough pipelines available to bring it from nearby Pennsylvania. You heard it right.

Despite being just a few hundred miles from the Marcellus Shale, one of the largest natural gas reserves in the country, our New England States were forced to import natural gas from Vladimir Putin. Nobody on this floor—the advocates of this bill—seem to have a problem with that.

Now my colleagues want to implement these policies on a Federal level with moratoriums on drilling. The event in Boston shows us that the legislation before us would have no impact on reducing demand for fossil fuels. We would simply have to import more from our adversaries. That is not good policy.

□ 1515

As has been explained, to add to the madness, the bill is completely irreconcilable with the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of the biggest priorities of the Natural Resources Committee and the Senate.

The LWCF receives its funding from oil revenues generated off the coast of States like Louisiana, my home State. On the very same day that the Natural Resources Committee marked up these bills to ban offshore oil and gas exploration, the Senate marked up another bill to permanently fund the LWCF. The majority wants to see mandatory spending of $900 million per year out of the LWCF, but at the same time, it wants to eliminate completely its funding source. That is just simply nonsense.

Our country is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. We have the right to use those God-given resources to create jobs, foster economic growth, and pave the way to an era of American energy dominance. Oppressive policies like the ones before us today have been our own worst enemy, forcing us to rely on foreign nations to meet our energy demands.

We simply can’t do that any longer. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this bill.

Mr. GRILLA. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Gulf of Mexico test range off Florida is the only thing that is going to keep us from having high energy prices and a reliance on foreign energy, I don’t know why that hasn’t happened yet.

Right now, we are not drilling off the coast of Florida, and we are not drilling on the coast of Florida, and we continue to see energy prices dropping.

As my colleague Representative Cas- torn said, 69 percent of Floridians do not want to see drilling off our shores.

Madam Chair, if you would like to drill off the coast of Louisiana or South Carolina, I would say have at it, but leave my beloved Florida alone.

There are many reasons to oppose drilling off Florida’s shores: our environment, our tourism economy, and our real property values. But I come to the floor today to plead the case for northwest Florida’s military mission.

The Gulf test range has shown itself to be entirely compatible during many decades of practical experience.

In Florida, we will protect our environment, our tourism and fishing that year. I fully understand the fears of the supporters of this bill. But a little perspective is needed.

The economic losses caused by the spill were fully compensated, and the environmental damage was quickly healed. I might add that the second-largest oil spill in history was the wreck of the oil tanker Exxon Valdez, which is the alternative to offshore production.

For more than 50 years, offshore production in the Channel Islands has been an immense positive for the region and is entirely compatible with military operations there. It has supported thousands of jobs; it has pumped a fortune into the local economy; and it has generated enormous revenues for local, State, and Federal coffers.

By the way, if you ask any sportsman in the region where the best fishing is, he will tell you that it is by the rigs.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Chair, I respect the bill’s author, and I understand that he is faithfully representing the opinions of the majority of his district in seeking to permanently place our offshore petroleum reserves off the coast, and his State off-limits to exploration and development.

All of our Nation’s coastlines are beautiful, and they all support all sorts of tourism, commercial activities, and military activities important to their local communities and our Nation. For many in the West, offshore energy development has shown itself to be entirely compatible with these uses. To suggest that it is in some places but not in others is manifestly silly and wrong.

For 22 years in the California Legislature, I represented California’s Channel Islands, including the Santa Barbara Channel, which, by the way, is the home of the Pacific missile test range. Yes, in 1969, an outdated drilling technology produced the largest oil spill ever recorded, devastating tourism and fishing that year. I fully understand the fears of the supporters of this bill. But a little perspective is needed.

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I am not here today to argue for what is right for local communities in other States and other regions. I understand that offshore production suffers from what Bastiat called the paradox of the seen and unseen. We see the danger of a blowout like Santa Barbara in 1969 or the Deepwater Horizon in 2010. But what we don’t see are the enormous economic benefits generated day in and day out by American energy production or the critical role it plays in our Nation’s prosperity.

This is where the national interest must be put ahead of parochial “not in my backyard” protests. Procedures have been long established to ensure that offshore production can occur alongside commercial fishing, recreation, and, yes, military testing and training. They have proven themselves to be entirely compatible during many decades of practical experience.

Indeed, one of the many ironies of this NIMBY movement is that commercial fishing and military operations are
highly dependent on precisely the abundant and affordable petroleum produced by offshore drilling, so too, by the way, is the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Offshore production is the main funding source for this program, and another shortsighted irony is that the same markup that produced this bill to shut down offshore production off the Florida coast also permanently reauthorizes the very fund that depends on offshore production for its very existence.

If the Congress were to enact a permanent moratorium on production for one part of our coastline, it begs the question: Why are some people more equal than others?

Madam Chair, we are all advocates for our local districts, and the bill’s author is an able and respected advocate for his. But our collective responsibility as Congress is not to local interests but to the national interest, and it is in the national interest that our Nation is energy independent, prosperous, and strong. This bill undermines these vital national objectives.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For the record, this bill will not affect LWCF funds at all. All the money for the fund comes from existing oil and gas activities in the central and western Gulf of Mexico. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is credited with the first $900 million in offshore revenue last year, those revenues were $4.7 billion, and projections are that existing activity in the Gulf of Mexico is enough to keep the fund going for a long, long time.

We don’t need to drill in the Atlantic or the Pacific or near Florida to find more money. Revenues are not a problem. The real problem is that only twice in the history of the fund has Congress appropriated the full $900 million that it should get. In fact, over time, we have collected $37.8 billion of revenue that should have been spent on LWCF, but Congress has appropriated less than half, $18.4 billion. Revenue is not the issue.

This permanent protection for Florida coastal areas is not going to hurt the fund. It has been stated three times already by my friends on the other side of the aisle, but that is completely false.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD a statement of Administrative Policy on this particular bill:

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 205—PROTECTING AND SECURING FLORIDA’S COASTAL AND MARINE ECONOMIES ACT of 2019—REP. ROONEY, R-FL, AND 18 COSPONSORS

H.R. 1941—COASTAL AND MARINE ECONOMIES PROTECTION ACT—REP. CUNNINGHAM, D-SC, AND 18 COSPONSORS

The Administration opposes H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019. H.R. 1146, the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act, and H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. These bills would undermine the Administration’s commitment to a prosperous American economy supported by the responsible use of the Nation’s abundant natural resources. Such restrictions undermine the development of our resources enhances our energy security and energy dominance, and produces high-paying American jobs; provides increased revenue to the Treasury and local communities; and is a critical source of conservation.

H.R. 1146 would prohibit the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management from administering an oil and gas leasing program in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska. The bill would result in the loss of over 200,000 acres of oil and gas resources, reducing the potential economic, social, and environmental benefits of responsible development in the Coastal Plain that would allow the use of no more than about 0.01 percent of the total acreage of ANWR for surface development of production and a thorough, full-scale administrative process involving State and tribal consultation and balancing of the benefits and impacts to all the regions of the OCS. These bills would permanently eliminate leasing opportunities in the Federal waters of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). H.R. 205 would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (GOMESA) to make permanent the current temporary leasing moratorium on offshore leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Florida. H.R. 205 would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to permanently remove from consideration acreage for offshore leasing on both the Atlantic and Pacific OCS. Both of these bills would undermine OCSLA, which established a periodic, multi-stage planning process involving State and tribal consultation and a thorough, full-scale administrative process on revenue, development, and balancing of the benefits and impacts to all the regions of the OCS. These bills would permanently constrain this careful administrative process and the benefits of OCSLA.

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opportunity by limiting American energy access. We urge you to reject these bills and instead stand up for energy produced in America, by American workers for the benefit of American families.

Sincerely,

LIUNA,
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the 500,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I want to express our opposition to H.R. 205, which would permanently extend the moratorium on oil and gas leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; H.R. 1146, to once again prohibit oil and gas leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; and H.R. 1941, which would bar offshore drilling along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

Once again, jobs of LIUNA members who work in the energy sector are being targeted for elimination by environmental radicals for purely political purposes. There is absolutely no chance for these “message bills” to be enacted into law this Congress. So, instead of creating real job opportunities, infrastructure legislation, union members are seeing their jobs once again being denigrated and belittled.

Energy independence is central to the future of the American economy and our standard of living. Unfortunately, the enemies of job creation continue to try to walk off and strand our domestic energy resources from development; killing jobs, prolonging our energy dependence on unfriendly foreign regimes, and saddling middle-class and low-income families with rising energy costs.

LIUNA members, in Alaska and elsewhere, know first-hand that when done responsibly, with the right safeguards, energy development can coexist with environmental stewardship. LIUNA and the other building trades unions invest significant resources into the training of our members that equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to work safely and productively while constructing energy and other infrastructure to the highest standards.

For the hard-working members of LIUNA and other building trades unions, these jobs put food on their families' tables and roofs over their heads. These jobs enable them to put their children through college, to save for retirement, and to spend money in businesses that employ others.

I urge you to vote against these ill-conceived bills.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely yours,
TERRY O'SULLIVAN, General President.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA, Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. GRAVES.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I thank the ranking member for the recognition to talk about this legislation.

Madam Chair, we are talking about legislation that has to do with energy policy and energy production. We are talking about the goals here, as I heard different speakers talk about protecting our fisheries and our environment. I heard speakers talk about protecting our military mission, those military bases, and that military edge and the technology we have. I heard people talking about jobs and the threat of spills.

Madam Chair, I support those objectives, and I know that this may sound counterintuitive: This bill undermines the very objectives that it is purported to advance. Let’s go through them.

Let’s go through those things.

Number one, talking about the environment, that this bill will cause damage to the environment and it will undermine ecological productivity. Madam Chair, if you take a look at this graphic right here, you probably think this is where energy infrastructure is. You probably think that is what this is. This depicts the intensity of energy infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico from the Texas coast to right there in Alabama.

In reality, oh, my goodness, look at that, if it is not red snapper landings. This is actually where the fish are. This shows the areas of where the fish are. This actually increases ecological productivity by creating habitat for fisheries.

I heard a speaker on the other side talk about how there was devastation of fisheries in the State of Florida after the spill, the disaster in 2010. In 2011, the State of Florida had 117 million pounds of fisheries. In 2011, that was more than the fisheries they produced in the most recent year recorded. Let me say that again. In the immediate aftermath of the spill, in 2011, there were more fisheries landed worth more money than there was in the most recent year recorded, which is 2017.

I hate to sit here and continue to undermine all these narratives, but let’s go on.

We are saying that this bill is designed to protect our environment. Actually, Madam Chair, you can look at statistics, and as far as I understand, they use cars and airplanes and have all-conditioning in Florida. That requires oil and gas. Since you are producing it and need it, the safest way to transport is to produce it domestically and then put it in a pipeline. That is not my statistic; it is from the National Research Council.

Once again, Madam Chair, you are not protecting habitat; you are actually preventing habitat from being established. You are not helping ecological biodiversity, you are actually degrading it. You are not protecting the environment or preventing spills; you are providing a greater risk for that. My friend from California (Mr. MCLINTOCK) made reference to the Valdez spill. That was a boat.

Let’s go on to the other one, the military. I heard a speaker say: Oh, we can’t have energy production here because that is going to prevent our ability to fly and practice with weapons in the Gulf of Mexico.

Madam Chair, when we go into war and go up against adversaries, do we say: Hey, we need you to take that building down so my missile can shoot straight in?

No. That is absurd. You operate under real conditions, which includes, in some cases, obstructions.

I want to make reference here that we are talking about thousands and thousands and thousands of square miles. You can produce here with very, very little surface infrastructure. Most of it is subsea, having zero impact.

Now, Madam Chair, I heard somebody talking earlier about 2006 and how Congress stepped in and provided a moratorium. Yes. But do you know what that moratorium is provided in exchange for? Moving the Military Mission Line to the east.

Now, there was an agreement. The 181 leasing areas, that was agreed to. We actually added more production areas in exchange for a temporary moratorium. But what is being proposed now is a greater threat to the environment. We are putting a moratorium in place, and it is not doing any type of balance.

We can step in and protect our military mission, we can protect our environment, and we can have jobs and energy production in the United States.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I also heard talk about the Land and Conservation Water Fund and, yes, the irony of the fact that there is legislation that the chair pushed that permanently authorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Legislation moving it permanently funds it at $900 million; $150 million a year goes to the Historic Preservation Fund.

But in reality, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not limited to $900 million. It is not. I have heard people say, over and over again. That is not accurate.

There is an additional 12.5 percent that comes from revenue sharing that
The offshore coalition, a group of at least 17 members, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Laborers’ International Union of North America, sent a letter opposing H.R. 205, H.R. 1941, and H.R. 1146. In the coalition’s letter, they state: “For more than seven decades, energy development in the Gulf of Mexico has worked collaboratively alongside tourism, fishing, and Defense Department training activities. But H.R. 205 would permanently extend the eastern Gulf of Mexico moratorium on oil and natural gas activities. It is scientific that we are supposed to do. It is logical, and it is something we should approve, which is why this issue should not be a bill before us. This bill should have been decided as part of the NDAA.

But the question here is: Is everything on this arbitrary line that was drawn, is it all needed for military purposes? It should be the military that makes that decision; and, I am sorry, in the past, they have simply said, no, they don’t need it all.

So, let’s be wise, if we were really doing the right thing for this country, if we were really doing the right thing on this issue, we would simply say the military can exclude what the military needs; and what they don’t need should be allowed to be opened up for other kinds of exploration that could benefit Mississippi and Alabama and New Orleans and Texas, because they happen to be closer to the line than Florida is. That is the right thing to do.

That is the rule that just says to take the ruler and make the damn line down the middle of the map. That is wrong. That is a violation of everything that is logical. That is a violation of everything that is scientific that we need to do. That is a violation of even taking away the ability of the military to make decisions for themselves. That is why this is a failed opportunity on our part.

Had the Rules Committee simply decided to take more rules into effect, we could have modified this bill to make it something that almost everybody in this room could have accepted. But the Rules Committee refused to do that. For whatever political purposes they had in mind, they simply refused to do that.

So, we have the option of instead of doing a bill that is the right thing to do and a good thing to do, we have a bill that is going to be questionable here. It is going to be questionable in the Senate. It is going to be questionable on the deck.

We could have done the right thing. We could have put the right thing. Hopefully, before this bill is all the way through the system, we will do the right thing. But for that, this is a failed opportunity, and I do blame the Rules Committee for refusing to try and expand the discussion so we could actually make a bill that is viable.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the opportunity and all those who have spoken on this bill. I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Grijalva), and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the debate that we have had on this particular bill—kind of.

Florida does have the right to do whatever it wishes to do on its property and on its State lands and State waters, and they should have the right to do it unless there is some kind of impact to Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi, in which case, them doing something strictly for Florida’s purposes that doesn’t take into account the other States is wrong-minded.

But for this particular bill, we are really not talking about the economy and the tourism and everything else. This bill is about a military line and military issues.

As I have stated earlier, yes, there are military positions in Florida. There is a military testing training range on the water, which is not as good as the land-based one but is on the water in Florida.

Those are there and they deserve to be protected, and when the military wants those things set aside without any kind of disturbance, that is logical. That is limited. That is logical, and it

also goes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, putting it over $1 billion a year. Plus, you add $150 million from the Historic Preservation Fund.

Plus, just to put it in perspective, Madam Chair, when you add up just between 2011 and 2016, $55 billion—$55 billion—was generated for the U.S. Treasury from energy production on Federal lands and waters.

Madam Chair, that doesn’t just fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund. That funds our veterans’ benefits. It funds environmental programs. It funds healthcare for our elderly. It funds early childhood education. It funds infrastructure.

This, according to the Government Accountability Office, is one of the largest nontaxed streams of revenue. And we are talking about stopping it.

Production doesn’t go on in perpetuity. You need additional layers. It takes 10 years to go from leasing to production, so we have got to start planning now to produce safely to ensure we can continue to have a vibrant economy, jobs, to continue having a safe environment.

This bill undermines the very objectives that it was purported to advance.

Madam Chair, I urge objection to this uninformed legislation.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, as a point of reference, the BP oil spill cost the fishing industry at least, at the minimum, $91.7 million and, at the maximum, $1.6 billion in 2010. I mention that because, you know, oil spills are not necessarily good for fisheries in the long haul.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Gosar).

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. Bishop), ranking member, for some time to speak in opposition to this bill.

Madam Chair, like the previous legislation, this bill represents a step backwards in ensuring American energy security, but making certain sections of the eastern Gulf of Mexico permanently off limits to oil and gas development, this legislation once again ties one hand behind our Nation’s back.

As chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and the ranking member of the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, I have a unique insight into many of America’s energy issues.

Many on the Western Caucus and Republican members on the Committee on Natural Resources have a different vision for America, a vision that doesn’t pick winners and losers and includes a true all-of-the-above energy strategy that embraces wind, solar, nuclear, hydropower, coal, oil, and natural gas. Our vision encourages innovation and inclusion of everyone in our energy system. We know responsible energy production and protecting our environment go hand in hand.

The offshore coalition, a group of at least 17 members, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Laborers’ International Union of North America, sent a letter opposing H.R. 205, H.R. 1941, and H.R. 1146. In the coalition’s letter, they state: “For more than seven decades, energy development in the Gulf of Mexico has worked collaboratively alongside tourism, fishing, and Defense Department training activities. But H.R. 205 would permanently extend the eastern Gulf of Mexico moratorium on oil and natural gas activities.

“We rely on American-made energy to power our daily lives, communities, and to grow a prosperous future. Americans deserve clean, safe, reliable, abundant, and affordable energy so that our families, communities, and businesses can all share the opportunities American energy creates.

“Our country cannot afford to block access to new energy supplies and risk losing our energy advantage. That’s why we ask you to oppose legislation being considered by the U.S. House of Representatives this week that would slow scientific surveys and prevent access to new sources of American offshore energy in the Outer Continental Shelf.”

Our previous speaker actually alluded to this very aspect. It takes 10 years to go from inquiry to actual production. I couldn’t agree more with the sentiments expressed by this broad coalition of Members here on this side of the aisle that have opposed it, and I urge Members to oppose H.R. 205.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the debate that we have had on this particular bill—kind of.

Florida does have the right to do whatever it wishes to do on its property and on its State lands and State waters, and they should have the right to do it unless there is some kind of impact to Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi, in which case, them doing something strictly for Florida’s purposes that doesn’t take into account the other States is wrong-minded.

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We could have done the right thing. We could have done the right thing. Hopefully, before this bill is all the way through the system, we will do the right thing. But for that, this is a failed opportunity, and I do blame the Rules Committee for refusing to try and expand the discussion so we could actually make a bill that is viable.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the opportunity and all those who have spoken on this bill. I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Grijalva), and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I thought I would close by talking a little bit about, because it is really the ‘Earth isn’t burning fast enough’ legislation, as I like to call it.

America is already the number one producer of oil and gas in the world.
This administration is lifting protections on hundreds of millions of acres of public lands for even more drilling. Our Republican colleagues feel that is not enough. It is never enough for them. For them, President Trump’s extreme environmental antipathy to the agenda needs to be pushed even further. They are rolling out a bill to give even more money away to their oil and gas polluter friends.

This Republican bill that was introduced has mandated that the minority would force the Florida Gulf Coast for offshore oil and gas, let States decide where energy development should happen on Federal public lands, gut Federal regulation, shorten environmental review times, give vast amounts of public money to four States in the Gulf of Mexico, and make Americans pay if they wanted to object to a government decision.

Think about it. Right now, oil and gas companies get to nominate public lands for leasing without paying a dime. If Republicans had their way, oil and gas companies would keep the free ride, and anyone who wants to protest a lease would have to pay a fee to challenge them.

These ideas are destructive, and they couldn’t even pass in an all-Republican government. Nearly all of this legislation was introduced in various forms by Republicans in the last Congress when they controlled everything: the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Presidency. But the bills that were introduced today are so pro-polluter, so backwards-looking, they weren’t able to pass them in the House under Republican control.

If my House colleagues just can’t or won’t take climate change seriously, then we shouldn’t take this bill seriously at all. The American people want us to act on climate. They reject the Trump administration’s pro-polluter agenda. That is why we are voting to protect our coasts today, and that is why I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 205.

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

The Acting CHAIR. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.


The amendment, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 205

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 “Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastaline Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF MORATURUM ON LEASING IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO.**

Section 104(a) of the Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note) is amended by striking “Effective during” and all that follows through “the Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary shall—

**SEC. 3. INSPECTION FEE COLLECTION.**

Section 22 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1348) is amended by adding at the end of the subsection—

“(g) INSPECTION FEES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall collect from the operators of facilities subject to inspection under subsection (c) non-refundable fees for such inspections—

“(A) at an aggregate level equal to the amount necessary to pay the expenses of inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) by the Secretary of the Interior; and

“(B) using a schedule that reflects the differences in complexity among the classes of facilities to be inspected.

“(2) OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY FUND.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ‘Ocean Energy Safety Fund’ (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Fund’), into which there shall be deposited all amounts collected as fees under paragraph (c) that shall be available as provided under paragraph (3).

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, all amounts in the Fund—

“(A) shall be credited as offsetting collections;

“(B) shall be available for expenditure for purposes of carrying out inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) and the administration of the inspection program under this section;

“(C) shall be available only to the extent provided for in advance in an appropriations Act; and

“(D) shall remain available until expended.

“(4) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—For each fiscal year beginning after fiscal year 2020, the Secretary shall adjust each dollar amount specified in this subsection for inflation based on the change in the Consumer Price Index from fiscal year 2020.

“(5) ANNUAL FEES.—Annual fees shall be collected under this subsection for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year.

“(A) fees for fiscal year 2020—

“(i) $11,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

“(ii) $18,500 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells;

“(iii) $34,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells;

“(ii) $11,500 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of less than 500 feet; and

“(ii) $17,500 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths between 500 and 2,499 feet; and

“(ii) $4,470 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths greater than 2,500 feet.

“(6) BILLING.—The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (5) annually, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (6) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days after billing.”.

**SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ‘Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation’ for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been transmitted prior to the vote on passage.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each such further 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.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CRIST**

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116–200.

Mr. CRIST. 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 1, after line 10, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. PRODUCTION SAFETY SYSTEMS AND WELL CONTROL.**

Subparagraphs D, E, F, G, H, and Q of section 250 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2018), shall have the same force and effect of law as if such subparagraphs had been enacted by an Act of Congress.

Page 1, line 11, strike “3” and insert “4”.

Page 5, line 5, strike “4” and insert “6”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1, the acting gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRIST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRIST. Madam Chair, I was Governor of Florida in 2010 when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded off the coast of Louisiana. It killed 11 people and sent millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

I witnessed firsthand the tar balls on our beaches, the marine life dying in oil, and the billions of dollars of economic damage inflicted on countless families and small businesses.

As the largest offshore oil spill in American history, this should have been a huge wake-up call to everyone. Floridians said never again and voted almost 70 percent in the last election to ban offshore drilling because, as we learned, drilling doesn’t have to take place right off our shores to impact your way of life.

My amendment is simple. It reinstates two critical rules regarding offshore drilling and safety regulations,
the Well Control Rule and the Production Safety Systems Rule, that were put into place after the Deepwater Horizon disaster itself.

Sadly, the current administration has chosen to ignore the mistakes of our past and instead, weakened these rules, opening the door to self-regulation and less stringent standards. That is why my amendment codifies these rules in their previous form, reinstating critical safety requirements and reducing the risk of another tragedy.

I would like to thank the bipartisan cosponsors of my amendment, the Rules Committee for making the amendment in order, and the gentleman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for their tireless efforts to support these regulations.

Finally, on behalf of Florida’s 13th District, I give my heartfelt thanks to the distinguished bipartisan colleagues from Florida, Representative CASTOR and Representative ROONEY, for their tireless development on the underlying bill to keep drilling out of the eastern Gulf of Mexico for good.

In a perfect world, we wouldn’t have to drill at all. But as long as drilling does occur in the western and central Gulf, as happened after the Deepwater Horizon spill, we must do everything in our power to make sure that history does not repeat itself.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment so that no State ever has to endure another Deepwater Horizon tragedy.

Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Grijalva), my colleague, the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his thoughtful and necessary amendment that will restore offshore drilling regulations and that will reduce the risks the Gulf communities face from offshore development.

I thank him for that, and I very much support the amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. The administration, rightfully, took a second look at the well control and production safety system rule that was implemented by the previous administration. They didn’t make a whole lot of changes. About a 17 percent change to the overall rule was all that was done there.

But the colleagues that I have heard and, also, those in the press who have talked about the military line have said it is no different and has done absolutely nothing to comply with the well control rule. In reality, that just is not what is happening.

The rule allows BSEE to approve alternative compliance measures for companies that can prove there is a better way of handling a particular requirement that is at least as safe as the original regulatory rules were. So, in fact, the practice is nothing new.

In the Obama administration, they approved more than the current administration is doing it. The average during the Obama administration was roughly four times per day. The current administration does it roughly 2.3 times per day.

BSEE isn’t allowing oil companies to get away with not complying with the well control rule. They have simply found a better way of doing it.

To codify this rule, the way it was before takes away the flexibility and the ability to use technology and new ideas and new science to come up with a better way of solving the problem.

This amendment does great harm not only to the people what is necessary to this bill, which ought to be about the military line, simply means, were this to pass, this amendment would make it more difficult for the ultimate bill to reach a solution in the Senate.

It is not a better way of doing the wrong bill. It should have been on the earlier one.

It is an amendment that is not needed. It is an amendment that moves us back. It is an amendment that takes out of the administration the ability, simply, to do things the right way. If they can find a better way of doing it, let the administration, at any time, authorize that better way of doing the well control protection rule.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRIST. Madam Chair, first, I thank the chairman for his support of the bill. I appreciate that very much.

In response to my colleague from across the aisle, what is necessary and what is important is to make sure that we have stringent rules on this dangerous industry, to make sure that we protect our ecosystem and our environment.

As I said, we, as Floridians, already understand it, voting almost 70 percent of the vote in the latest election to ban offshore drilling from our beautiful coast.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, once again, I am somewhat confused as to the point and direction of this particular amendment.

If I interpret the military line, this amendment does nothing to it. If it is about protecting the coast of Florida, this amendment does nothing to it.

It is about having a better way of doing the system to provide more transparency and removes the ability of the department—BSEE, in this situation—to protect and realize that because it takes away their creative alternatives.

There are always better ways of doing something. This prohibits us from doing it. This is the wrong amendment on the wrong bill that gives us the wrong direction.

Madam Chair, I urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRIST).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. BARRAGÁN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 116-200.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. 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:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5. STUDY ON BSEE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Interior shall contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to complete, not later than 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the study entitled “Review and Update of Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Offshore Oil and Gas Operations Inspection Program” that the Secretary of the Interior previously contracted with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to complete.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Chair, earlier this year, I introduced a bill called the Safe COAST Act to protect our coasts from offshore oil and gas drilling. A vital element of that bill was to protect the offshore oil and gas operations program. This critical piece of the Safe COAST Act is offered in this amendment.

As this body may remember, in December 2017, the administration placed a hold order on a critical study of the inspections program for offshore oil and gas operations, in an attempt to delay the study and alter its management.

The administration later changed its mind and resumed the study, but it doesn’t mean the administration can’t change its mind again and halt it or take away the study from the National Academy of Sciences and contract it to an oil and gas industry-friendly entity.

We can’t take that chance because this study is too critical. For example, this study ensures that vital aspects of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement’s regulatory mission are being met.

The study would evaluate the Bureau’s current risk assessment inspection process and provide recommendations for its improvement. It will also evaluate and migrate best practices into the Bureau’s inspection protocols. Lastly, it will assess the potential role of safety-enhancing technologies, such as remote and real-time monitoring.

In short, it will assess the use of emerging technologies, potential risks,
and improved safety and environmental protection practices.

Our coast needs these protections. My amendment will ensure the study remains operational and in the objective and trustworthy hands of the National Academy of Sciences.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to help protect our oceans and support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I claim these time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I don’t want to try to be smug on these kinds of amendments, but it is already being done.

It is a nice concept. It was stopped, but it has also started again. So this calls for a study to continue and resume. They have already done it.

In October, in the Department of the Interior, they already resumed the meetings. They are ongoing. Everything you want is actually happening.

I think a better study may be figuring out how five noes can be outweighed by three ayes. Nonetheless, this is a redundant amendment because it is already happening.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BARRAGAN. Madam Chair, the bottom line is this administration cannot be trusted when it comes to protecting the coastline.

This administration already issued a stop order and changed its mind again, as I mentioned, from taking it away from the National Academy of Sciences.

The amendment just ensures that the study remains operational and in the hands of the National Academy of Sciences so that there can’t be a change. This is a protection we need for the coast.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I am going to end with the final conclusion, again, that it is a redundancy because it is already being done.

Why don’t you just mandate that everything we are doing in every other department be done at the same time? It would have the same kind of impact, the same kind of effect. It is cute, but it is not a factor of our time.

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. BARRAGAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 116-200.

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:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 2 of this Act shall not be effective until the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, finds that the moratorium under such section will not adversely affect jobs available to minorities and women.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 548, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk reads as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. GOSAR:

Strike “Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service” and insert “Secretary of Labor”.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman of Arizona?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified in the form I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified in the form I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that allows the section 2 moratorium in this bill to go into effect when the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Labor, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs.

We heard arguments from the Democratic Members on the other side of the aisle against a similar amendment, that this amendment doesn’t matter and is meaningless. How callous that response.

I tell opponents of this amendment to tell that single mother working to put food on the table for her two children that her job doesn’t matter. How about the minority family who just moved into a neighborhood so their kids can go to better schools? Tell those hardworking, minority parents that those jobs don’t matter either.

Under the current administration, unemployment has reached record lows. In August, the national unemployment rate sat at 3.7 percent, with the unemployment rate for African American workers sitting at 5.5 percent, breaking the previous record of 5.9 percent set in May 2018.

According to a recent report by The Washington Post—once again, the bastion of conservative reporting—nearly 90 percent of the jobs added under this administration has gone to minority communities. This can be attributed to, for the first time, a majority of new hires are people between the ages of 25 to 54 and are from minority communities.

According to statistics published by the American Petroleum Institute, minorities will comprise one-third of the total workforce in the oil and gas sector by 2030. Women already comprise more than 15 percent of the oil and gas workforce.

There are good-paying jobs, paying $90,000, that hardworking families depend upon. This legislation puts these employment opportunities at risk by permanently putting off-limits potentially viable and valuable offshore energy opportunities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

For the first time since the 1950s, the United States will soon be a net exporter of oil and natural gas, something that was once unthinkable. America’s energy renaissance has boosted the economies of previously left-behind towns throughout the country and turned them into vibrant communities.

Madam Chair, this is a commonsense amendment that protects minority and women jobs and puts the interests of the American workforce first. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, first of all, let’s start with the premise here. The premise of protecting jobs for women and people of color is a laudable one. But on the eastern coast, at this point, there are no jobs to lose or be protected because there are no jobs. If there was to be any activity, it would be when the moratorium would be lifted in 2022.

The point of this amendment has nothing to do with loss or protection. It is simply an attempt to block protections for the eastern Gulf based on a fake concern for jobs for women and people of color.

I recall the hearing we had yesterday about the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management reorganization and its transfer of central activities to Grand Junction, Colorado. In that, the majority asked the question: What about the retention of senior, female, and of-color staff in this move? How many are we going to lose? Do they need to be protected?

At the hearing, the minority Members told us that was not an issue, that we shouldn’t worry about it, that nothing was going to be lost and everything was going to be protected.

Here we have the issue being raised again, but from another perspective. I believe that enacting this bill and protecting Florida’s shore from the dangers of offshore drilling will safeguard
A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 182, noes 251, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 520]

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, again, this is actually the case. There is no question that that is the way it is. It is the law of the land. It is the law of the land. It is the law of the land.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, once again, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to think of that single mother who is working to put food on the table for her two children. Tell her that her job doesn't matter.

Again, think of the minority family that just moved into a new neighborhood so their kids could go to better schools. Tell those working minorities, those parents that their jobs don't matter.

Think of the statistics that we repeated over and over again. We have clean energy production and protect the environment, and we can have the good-paying jobs that are empowering women and minorities.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, again, the amendment is not necessary, and it is an attempt to delay and to put further risk to the Florida Gulf Coast, and I urge its defeat.

Ms. Ruiz. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, once again, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to think of that single mother who is working to put food on the table for her two children. Tell her that her job doesn't matter.
Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Ms. WASSEMER SCHULTZ, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole on the state of the House, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 205) to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and, pursuant to House Resolution 548, reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gross.

The amendments were agreed to.

The Speaker pro tempore. The Speaker pro tempore announced that that resolution, having been reported, would be disposed of now.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 248, nays 5, on which further proceedings were suspended, clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments to the bill (H.R. 205) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, with Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (Acting Chair) in the chair.

WASSEMER SCHULTZ (Acting Chair). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote from "nay" to "yea."

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida (Ms. WASSEMER SCHULTZ) kindly take the chair.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole on the state of the House for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 205) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, with Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (Acting Chair) in the chair.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COASTAL AND MARINE ECONOMIES PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida (Ms. WASSEMER SCHULTZ) kindly take the chair.

The Speaker. The Acting Chair. Pursuant to rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole on the state of the House for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 205) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, with Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (Acting Chair) in the chair.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting Chair. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part F of House Report 116-200, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Amendment No. 2 by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

The Chair will recognize the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) to explain the amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. Amendment No. 7 by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

The Chair will recognize the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) to explain the amendment.

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. GOSAR.

The Acting Chair. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order: Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. GOSAR.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. GOSAR.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. GOSAR.
Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. PRESSLEY changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Gosar) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignated the amendment (Roll No. 522) as follows:

[New text follows as per the amendment redesignation]
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 1941, to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 1. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 1 of this Act shall take effect on the date the President certifies that the enactment of this Act will not increase the national average price of gasoline.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) is hereby directed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, with a view to the further amendment of the bill, to report it at the desk.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gross.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill. The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gross.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill. The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.
money goes to the OPEC cartel rather than the U.S. Treasury.

Let me say that again. A run-up in world oil prices effectively attacks every American family’s discretionary budget, except that the money goes to the OPEC cartel rather than the U.S. Treasury. Those aren’t my words. Those are the words of Senators CANTWELL, MENENDEZ, MARKEY, and SCHUMER.

This amendment ensures that this legislation does not result in a disproportionate impact on the poor by raising gasoline prices and energy access to Americans across the board; of course, again, disproportionately impacting those of low income.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to protect our environment. And no, I do not believe more power to our President, but back in the time of my grandfather.

In South Carolina, we have strong bipartisan opposition to offshore drilling.

So why does this matter? Because we, as Members of this institution, have an obligation to not only respond to current events, but also to anticipate future problems and work to prevent them. You don’t wait for a bridge to break to fix its foundation, and you don’t wait for the hurricane to hit before boarding up your windows, and you don’t wait for an oil spill to realize that offshore drilling is just not worth jeopardizing our booming tourism industry.

As every farmer used to say, the juice just ain’t worth the squeeze.

This bill ensures that no new lease sales are made along the Atlantic and the Pacific. We are not looking to reverse existing sales, just prevent new ones.

So why does this matter? Because public opinion matters, and because our friends and our neighbors have expressed their opposition to offshore drilling along our coasts.

We, as Members of this institution, have an obligation to not only respond to current events, but also to anticipate future problems and work to prevent them. You don’t wait for a bridge to break to fix its foundation, and you don’t wait for the hurricane to hit before boarding up your windows, and you don’t wait for an oil spill to realize that offshore drilling is just not worth jeopardizing our booming tourism industry.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit. The question was taken; and the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The question of passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and the previous question is ordered on the motion to pass H.R. 191.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit. The question was taken; and the previous question is ordered on the motion to pass H.R. 191.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The question of passage.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit. The question was taken; and the previous question is ordered on the motion to pass H.R. 191.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The question of passage.

[Roll No. 524]
The vote was taken by electronic de-

So the motion to recommit was re-

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

So the bill was passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARCIA of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. I call the attention of the House to the fact that no quorum call of the House is required by Article I, Section 5, of the U.S. Constitution. I now recognize Mr. Scott to move that the House adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

Speaker pro tempore announced that the vote was taken by electronic de-

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks).

Mr. PAYNE. 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 (Mr. GARCIA of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. I call the attention of the House to the fact that no quorum call of the House is required by Article I, Section 5, of the U.S. Constitution. I now recognize Mr. Scott to move that the House adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.
help those less fortunate during times of crisis.
I am proud to support the work that they do and hope to praise more organizations like them in the future.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL JAMES COLQUITT AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Knoxville, Tennessee, native, Corporal James Colquitt, an American hero and United States Marine.

Corporal Colquitt joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17. On March 15, 1944, he boarded a train and was sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for recruit training. Corporal Colquitt served as a rifleman with I Company, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division. From February 19 to March 2, 1945, he participated in combat action against the Japanese during the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles of the entire Pacific War.

Corporal Colquitt received a Purple Heart for wounds received during combat operations on March 2, 1945. He was promoted to the rank of corporal and was honorably discharged from Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., on April 26, 1946.

Corporal Colquitt is one of thousands of great men and women who honorably served our country during World War II. After defending our values and freedoms, these brave soldiers returned home, raised families, strengthened communities, and continued the growth of America.

It is my honor to recognize James Colquitt as the Tennessee Second Congressional District’s September 2019 Veteran of the Month and to thank him for his service to our country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the September 11 attacks, and especially those who lost their lives on that day, including people from my own home state in Rhode Island.

It was 8 months into my first term in Congress when our Nation’s course was inexcusably altered that blue Tuesday morning. Over the last 18 years, as an inaugural member of the Committee on Homeland Security and as a member of the Committee on Armed Services with oversight over our Special Operations Forces, I devoted myself to ensuring our country is safe.

I know that we have made progress, important progress, and we worked to eliminate terrorist enclaves around the world. We strengthened our security at home so that we are no longer a soft target. We, of course, paid dearly for these gains through the sacrifice of our servicemembers and the tax dollars of our citizens.

However, we still have a long way to go. This summer, Congress, of course, finally enacted, permanently, to protect 9/11 first responders. It is certainly long overdue.

We must also now fulfill our commitments to our veterans returning home from the Global War on Terror. We must protect our country against new and emerging threats, including in the cyber domain. And each year, we must renew our pledge to “never forget.”

IN HONOR OF MELINDA “MINDY” GENE PICCOTTI

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H.R. 4279, to name the post office in Laceyville, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, after Melinda “Mindy” Gene Piccotti.

A native of Pennsylvania’s 12th Congressional District, Mindy was an Air Force veteran who knew the struggles combat veterans and wounded soldiers face when returning home from duty.

Starting in 2009, at the age of 60, Mindy highlighted her commitment to our Nation’s Armed Forces by creating Hunts for Healing, based out of Laceyville. Mindy founded Hunts for Healing to help wounded soldiers returning from military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat areas transition back into civilian life by allowing them to experience the joys of hunting, including social interaction and camaraderie.

With the assistance of volunteer guides and funded entirely by private donations, Hunts for Healing helps veterans in need of physical, spiritual, and emotional support.

For the impact of her life and for her continued legacy in the veterans’ community, I urge Members to support H.R. 4279 and name the post office in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, for Melinda “Mindy” Gene Piccotti.

□ 1745

WETLANDS INSTITUTE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(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, the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, south Jersey, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

For half a century, the Wetlands Institute has been providing south Jersey and its community with programs that work toward conserving our wetlands and our coastal systems. This institute was founded on the belief that those living in coastal communities should be educated about how to keep themselves and their environments protected, as they have been fulfilling that goal for the last 50 years.

Our oceans and our coasts are changing, and places like the Wetlands Institute are vital in teaching us how to protect the wildlife affected by these changes.

I thank all those who work at the institute for all they have done for the past 50 years. They are teaching the scientists and the environmentalists of the future, and I know they will continue to enhance our community and all of our communities into the future.

New Jersey, south Jersey, and the United States of America is proud of them. They have always been on the cutting edge, and I know they will continue to be.

RECOGNIZING JAKOB ZERNICK

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable young man, Jakob Zernick, from Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

Jakob is a 13-year-old with a green thumb who started his own nonprofit called Seedz 4 Needz. Jakob grows celery, Brussels sprouts, potatoes, and more to support the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he has been receiving treatment for Crohn’s disease for the last 5 years.

Jakob sells his produce at a vegetable stand outside his home in Ebensburg and uses the money to purchase toys, games, books, and more items to gift to children who are patients at the hospital.

According to Jakob, he is projected to raise $10,000 this year to benefit the Children’s Hospital. His efforts have been recognized by the community, and Jakob’s neighbors have been incredibly supportive, offering their own donations as well.

Most notably, Saint Francis University of Loretto, Pennsylvania, donated a $1,000 check to Seedz 4 Needz to help Jakob continue his mission.

I am proud of the work that Jakob has done, and I look forward to seeing Seedz 4 Needz grow.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIET EMAN

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a very special hero who risked his life to care for others and left a remarkable legacy.

Diet Eman was a longtime west Michigan resident who was born and
raised in the Netherlands. At 20 years old, she found herself in the middle of the crisis that had overtaken Europe during World War II.

Recognizing the injustices against the Jewish people in Holland, Diet and her fiancé, Hein Sietama, formed the Dutch resistance group called “Help Elkander in Nood,” which means “helping each other in need.”

Throughout the course of the war, Diet organized shelters and provided assistance to Jews in need, reported on German troop movements, and helped downed Allied pilots.

Eventually, she was actually captured by the Germans and spent 3 months in a concentration camp. However, her spirit and will could not be broken, and she outsmarted her interrogators, bluffing her captors into releasing her, and quickly returned to her work within the resistance movement.

Diet was personally recognized by President Eisenhower for her contributions, as well as by Dutch King Willem-Alexander, who deemed her a national hero for her courage and sacrifice.

Meeting her in person last year was a very special memory for me and my entire family. Diet never wavered in taking a stand for what is noble and lived a life full of bravery, compassion, and purpose.

Through her efforts, Diet helped change the world and make it a better place. May her memory be eternal.

COMMENORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 18th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on our Nation.

I want to thank the Congressional Progressive Caucus chairs, Representatives Jayapal and Pocan, and the Special Order conveners, Representatives Porter and Tlaib, for inviting us to use this time to commemorate this solemn anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

I am deeply grateful to my colleagues who have supported the recovery over the years and, most recently, for the overwhelming support with a vote of 402–12 to fund and make permanent the Victim Compensation Fund.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m., the first tower of the World Trade Center was struck. At 9:03, the second tower was struck. At 9:37, the Pentagon was hit. And, at 10:03, the fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the name of every person who perished in that attack.

Gordon M. Aamoth, Jr.

Edelmiro Abad

Marie Rose Abad

Andrew Anthony Abate

Vincent Paul Abate

Laurence Christopher Abel

Alona Abraham

William F. Abrahamson

Richard Anthony Aceto

Heinrich Bernhard Ackermann

Paul Acquaviva

Christian Adams

Donald LaRoy Adams

Patrick Adams

Shannon Lewis Adams

Stephen George Adams

Ignatius Udo Adanga

Christy A. Addamo

Terence Edward Adderley, Jr.

Sophia B. Addo

Lee Adler

Daniel Thomas Afflitto

Emmanuel Akwasi Afuakwah

Alok Agarwal

Mukul Kumar Agarwala

Joseph Agnello

David Scott Agnes

Joao Alberto da Fonseca Aguilar, Jr.

Brian G. Ahearn

Jeremiah Joseph Ahern

Joanne Marie Ahladiotis

Shabbir Ahmed

Terrance Andre Aiken

Godwin O. Ajala

Trudi M. Alagero

Andrew Alamenno

Margaret Ann Alario

Gary M. Albero

Jon Leslie Albert

Peter Craig Alderman

Jacquelyn Delaine Aldridge-Frederick

David D. Alger

Ernest Allikakos

Edward L. Allegretto

Eric Allen

Joseph Ryan Allen

Richard Dennis Allen

Richard L. Allen

Christopher E. Allingham

Anna S. W. Allison

Janet Marie Alonso

Anthony Alvarado

Antonio Javier Alvarez

Victoria Alvarez-Brito

Telmto E. Alvear

Cesar Amoranto Alviar

Angelo Amaranito

James M. Amato

Joseph Amatuccio

Paul W. Ambrose

Christopher Charles Amoroso

Craig Scott Amundson

Kazuhiko Anai

Calixto Anaya, Jr.

Joseph P. Anchundia

Kermitt Charles Anderson

Yvette Constance Anderson

John Jack Andreacchio

Michael Rourke Andrews

Jean Ann Andrucci

Siew-Nya Ang

Joseph Angelini, Sr.

Joseph John Angelini, Jr.

David Lawrence Angell

Mary Lynn Edwards Angell

Laura Ansetta

Doreen J. Angrisani

Lorraine Antigua

Seima David Aoyama

Peter Paul Apollo

Faustino Apostol, Jr.

Frank Thomas Aquilino

Patrick Michael Aranyos

David Gregory Arce

Michael George Arczynski

Louis Arens

Barbara Jean Arestege

Adam P. Arias

Michael J. Armstrong

Jack Charles Aron

Joshua Todd Aron

Richard Avery Arnow

Myra Joy Aronson

Japhet Jesse Aryee

Carl Francis Asaro

Michael A. Asciak

Michael Edward Asher

Janice Marie Ashley

Thomas J. Ashton

Manuel O. Asstimbay

GREGG A. ATLAS

Gerald Thomas Atwood

James Audiffred

Louis F. Aversano, Jr.

Ezra Aviles

Sandy Ayala

Arlene T. Babaktilts

Eustace R. Bacchus

John J. Badagliacca

Jane Ellen Baeszler

Robert J. Baierwalter

Andrew J. Bailey

Brett T. Bailey

Garnet Ace Bailey

Tatyana Bakalinskaya

Michael S. Baksh

Sharon M. Balkcom

Michael Andrew Bane

Katherine Bantis

Gerard Baptiste

Walter Baran

Gerard A. Barbera

Paul Vincent Barbaro

James William Barbella

Victor Daniel Barbosa

Christine Johanna Barbuto

Colleen Ann Barkow

David Michael Barkway

Matthew Barnes

Melissa Rose Barnes

Sheila Patricia Barnes

Evan Jay Baron

Renee Barrett-Arjune

Arthur Thaddeus Barry

Diane G. Barry

Maurice Vincent Barry

Scott D. Bart

Carlton W. Bartels

Guy Barzvi

Inna B. Basina

Alya Christina Burton Basmajian

Kenneth William Basnicki

Steven Joseph Bates

Paul James Battaglia

W. David Bauer

Ivahn Luis Carpio Bautista

Marilyn Caputo Bautista

Mark Lawrence Bavis

Jasper Baxter

Lorraine G. Bay

Michele Beale

Todd M. Beamer

Paul Frederick Beatini

Jane S. Beatty

Alan Anthony Beaven

Lawrence Ira Beck

Manette Marie Beckles

September 11, 2019
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|7642  CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE  September 11, 2019
|   Jurisdiction:  House  |
"Never Forget" also calls us to remembering these bills pass was my proudest
day from the effects of 9/11, that many
suffer every day.
Mr. Speaker, I would now like to rec-
ognize my friend and colleague from the great State of New York,
Mr. Nadler, who has worked many
long days in response to rebuilding
after 9/11.
Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman
from New York (Mr. Nadler).
Mr. Nadler. Mr. Speaker, I thank
Congresswoman Maloney for yielding
and for all her work over the years on
this issue.
It is hard to believe it has been 18
years. Like many New Yorkers, 9/11
seems both long ago and immediate, a
day became one of the darkest morn-
ings in our history when 2,997 innocent
people were struck and killed just for
going about their daily lives. They
were murdered for being Americans.
Thousands more were injured, and, in
the years since, tens of thousands more
became ill, disabled, or died from expo-
sure to the toxic soup that hung in the
air and covered the crash sites.
Mr. Speaker, I was in Washington that morning
immediately rushed back to New
York by train. I saw the smoking
wreckage in Lower Manhattan from the
train window and expected chaos in
the city, but, when I exited Penn Sta-
tion that evening, I was struck by the
silence. It was like a scene from out of the
movie "On the Beach." The city
seemed empty. No cars, no people, no
vehicles, no buses, nothing on the
streets—just the strange odor that
hung in the air.
Knowing the terror and confusion
happening just 40 blocks south, the si-
cence was eerie.
But, as we recall the fear and grief of
September 11, we cannot forget the
courage we saw that morning and in
the days, weeks, and months following
the attack: the firefighters who ran
into those buildings, the police officers
who searched for survivors, the con-
struction workers who carried each other
down endless stairs, the strangers on
the street who guided each other to
safety, the construction workers who
spent months clearing debris.
I joined a few environmental groups
in trying to warn people that they
could not believe the assurances of
EPA administrator Christine Todd
Whitman and Mayor Giuliani that the
air was not safe to breathe, that people
should not return to school or to work
without respiratory protection and
until a proper cleanup was done.
Eventually, we forced the govern-
ment to acknowledge those lies and to
provide healthcare and resources for
those clearly made sick by their expo-
sure to those toxins.
As subcommittee chair, I held the
first hearings to hold the EPA and
former EPA administrator Whitman
accountable for putting hundreds of
thousands at risk. Those hearings
were held in 2007.
Working with Congresswoman Malo-
ney, Congressman King, and my col-
leagues in New York and New Jersey,
we finally got Congress to come to-
together in 2010 to pass the James
Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation
Act, to establish a national health pro-
gram, and to reopen the Victim Com-
pensation Fund to provide support to
responders and survivors.
In 2015, as these programs were about
to expire, we made the Health Program
permanent, but reauthorized the VCF
for only 5 years.
This year, as chairman of the Judici-
ary Committee, I was incredibly proud
and moved to hold a hearing on the
need for additional time and money for
the VCF.
We heard heartbreaking testimony
from sick responders and survivors: a
firefighter, an FBI agent, a former high
school student, the widow of a con-
struction worker, and the late Detect-
ive Luis Alvarez, who passed away
from 9/11-related cancer just weeks
after testifying.
The very next day, the committee
unanimously passed the bill to make
the fund permanent, to restore any
cuts to past awards, and to ensure the
Victim Compensation Fund had all the
necessary funding to continue.
That bill passed the full House and
Senate and went straight to the Presi-
dent's desk, where it was signed into
law.
Creating the Health Program and the
Victim Compensation Fund and mak-
ing those programs permanent count
among the proudest moments of my
time as a Member of Congress. Through
these programs, we are finally living
up to the challenge Abraham Lincoln
laid before us in his second inaugural
address, that we must care for him who
shall have borne the battle, and for his
widow and his orphan.
We will never forget 9/11. We will never forget those who perished on that day from the terrorist attacks, and we will never abandon those who battled that day and still bear the scars.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MALONEY for hosting this Special Order hour with me and for being such a champion for the survivors and responders over the years.

I thank each of our colleagues who came to the floor this evening to remember those we lost and thank all of our colleagues who joined us in voting for and renewing the 9/11 healthcare act.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), another champion for this cause.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and New Yorker, my colleague, CAROLYN MALONEY, for organizing this evening so that we can all remember.

Eighteen years have passed since the September 11th attacks, but the memory of this unimaginable tragedy, unspeakable terror, and profound grief remains.

When tragedy struck, men and women streamed from the Twin Towers and the Pentagon as first responders ran in and risked their lives. Volunteers sifted through debris for days and weeks, hoping for miracles.

Between those horrific attacks and the crash of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, we lost nearly 3,000 family members, friends, and neighbors. We promised to never forget those whose lives were cut short.

The pain that we all feel from the loss of our relatives, friends, and neighbors will never heal, but every day we must channel that pain into remembrance and service. By participating in this day of service, we help build a stronger, more unified community to honor our memories.

We are also called to care for those who remain with us but suffer as a result of their bravery that day. In July, the Senate followed the House's lead and passed the permanent renewal of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, which was enacted on July 29, 2019. The long-overdue action provides financial security and care for first responders and survivors who are ill from exposure to a mix of burning chemicals and debris.

On this and every anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we are reminded of our common purpose and solemn responsibilities: to care for the survivors and responders, to give our law enforcement the resources to prevent and respond to attacks, and, last but not least, to hold the victims and heroes of September 11 and their families forever in our hearts.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

On 9/11, I got in a car and started to drive to New York. There were barricades up that said: “New York in crisis. You cannot pass.” It was the only time I ever had to use my congressional ID.

I got through, and all you could see were first responders pouring in from New Jersey to help. They were a critical part of not only rebuilding in New York, but passing the important legislation.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman, Representative MALONEY, for all her dedication, and I thank her for naming me to share a few remarks.

I am a new Representative from Pennsylvania, neighbor to New Jersey, but I spend an awful lot of time in New Jersey, and our whole area was affected.

Eighteen years ago, planes crashed into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field near Shanksville. September 11 slammed into our national consciousness and has reverberated ever since.

We lost family, friends, neighbors, cowokers—losses that are immeasurable. We might have lost more, but on that day, our first responders rushed toward danger, rescued survivors, and then spent months cleaning up the wreckage.

That blend of sorrow and courage was on display again in June, when first responders encouraged Congress to reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Detective Luis Alvarez told me: “I’m doing okay, but there are others out there who aren’t doing okay.” Before Detective Alvarez died a few weeks later, he said: “The government has to act like first responders . . . put politics aside and let’s get this bill done.”

Ultimately, we did so—through the might and strength of CAROLYN MALONEY, I might add—naming our bill for him, Luis Alvarez, and other heroes.

In the spirit of Detective Alvarez, let us continue to do so, working together with decency and respect. That is how we will honor those we lost; that is how we will honor all of those who continue to grieve.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

9/11 was a total bipartisan effort. I have new respect so united and determined, working together, particularly in the New York delegation.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for yielding and for hosting this Special Order hour.

Really, much of Congresswoman MALONEY’s career here and legacy of service in the House of Representatives, while focused passionately on a lot of other issues that are very important, certainly is one that is filled with much success in advocating on behalf of the New York community and for first responders all across America for important priorities post-9/11. So I thank her for all of her leadership, because a lot of that benefits my constituents as well on the East End, but, really, for all of us as Americans.

As we are here right now, all across New York, across my district, across the country, people not just men and women who remember exactly where they were and how they felt, what they saw, what they heard, and also, kids who weren’t even born yet, learning for the first time those stories of what was experienced on September 11, 2001.

We often talk about our Nation’s Greatest Generation. I was at Army Reserve duty this past weekend, and I was talking to one officer who said that his life—not just his military career, but his life—is broken up into two parts: There was the part of his life until September 11, 2001, and the part of his life after September 11, 2001, in that cause. There has been so much sacrifice since 9/11.

As we gather together on this 18th anniversary here in the House Chamber, this morning starting with a moment of silence and a singing of “God Bless America,” we’re talking about never forgetting.” We have to ensure that every single day that we are honoring the legacy of all those lives cut short too soon, that we are paying tribute to those first responders with an enormous amount of courage, and that we are honoring those men and women who still serve to this day, those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, our Gold Star families, our Blue Star families, past, present, and future.

As that lieutenant colonel told me this past weekend, for him, where he separated his life into service before 9/11 and service after, like before 9/11 and life after, know that right now we have heroes and women who are overseas who were 1 year old or 2 years old and their entire life have only known the post-9/11 reality, and yet they want nothing else but service.

So I think this 18th anniversary is not just about what happened on that day and the days and the weeks and the months that followed, but it is also about where we are today.
Finally, I would say this: While we talk about the lives that were lost that day, there is an important lesson with the justice that was served to follow, for anyone who seeks to break down this country, to tear apart what binds us together. If I had had enough of the fighting, I think people want us to come together as one. They want us to work together, govern together, and solve problems together under the flag. Today, we are able to step back, to think and reflect and pray for all the lives we lost that day and all those we have lost since. We honor their legacies by coming together as a nation here in the greatest country in the world and committing to work to build a more perfect Union.

As we remember those we lost and our veterans and our active service-members and all of our first responders who continue to protect us, may God bless all those who lost that day as well as their families, those we have lost since, and may God bless those who bravely protect us here at home and abroad every day. And may God to continue to bless the United States of America.

I thank the gentlewoman so much for her leadership through the years to ensure that, in so many ways, our first responders, families, victims are all being fought for successfully in the Halls of this great Chamber, and all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have assisted Mrs. MALONEY in her important efforts. I thank the gentlewoman for hosting this bipartisan Special Order hour this evening to remember the attacks on September 11.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. GOTTHEIMER], a great partner in our efforts to rebuild after 9/11.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MALONEY and Chairman NADLER for hosting this bipartisan Special Order hour this evening to remember the attacks on September 11.

I thank the gentlewoman so much for all she does for our first responders and for our country. We are all very grateful.

More than 700 New Jersey residents were among the nearly 3,000 Americans killed at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and on the four planes that morning. The attacks were not only a declaration of war on the American people, but also on our fundamental ideals of freedom and liberty.

On 9/11, we lost more than 400 firefighters, police, EMTs, and other first responders who all ran in to help, true patriots putting others ahead of themselves.

And since that tragic morning, 2,000 first responders who were there at the pile in the days, weeks, and months following have died from illnesses from their exposure to toxic dust and debris.

Each day, I was proud to stand right here on the House floor alongside my colleagues in the New York and New Jersey delegations, led by Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. KING and Chairman NADLER, calling for the permanent authorization of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, which, through the tireless advocacy efforts of their fellow first responders and survivors, will provide our sick and dying 9/11 first responders and their families with the support they need and deserve.

Just as we stood together then—not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans—after those attacks 18 years ago, we must continue to do so today and come together as a country for our children, for our first responders, for our brave men and women in Active Duty, and for our veterans.

Eighteen years ago today, my daughter was home sick, and she said—and it still is one of the best descriptions of what happened—she said, “I feel like Alice in Wonderland. I have gone through the looking glass and nothing will ever be the same again.” And it is true about our country.

We reordered our priorities and made Homeland Security our number one priority. We wrote many bills to make this country safer and stronger, and we worked together that day and every day. We remember the lives that were taken from us and in the years that have followed the lives that have been lost because of sickness, and we are reminded of the strength and resiliency of our great Nation and what we can achieve when we band together.

I want to thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for joining me in this Special Order for and for all of Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives MALONEY and NADLER for organizing this Special Order to mark a day that is engraved in the memory of every American, September 11, 2001.

To honor the lives of the fallen, the firefighters and the law enforcement officers who ran towards danger when everyone else was running away from it. And we recognize the 911 dispatchers who were working around the clock behind the scenes to organize emergency response across our Nation.

I was working at the LAPD 911 center that morning. It was all hands on deck, and I didn’t know when I would be able to go home. My first assignment that day was to assemble two mobile field force units and send them out to protect places of worship, water treatment plants, cell phone towers, and anything that could be considered a target.

I had no idea what would come next. Never did us. But the first responder working that day, 911 dispatchers had to cast their own fears aside. They had jobs to do. They had to protect and secure their communities, just like firefighters and police officers. And they had to call reassuring voice on the other side of the line for every person who dialed 911, for every resident who was fearing the worst, for every child who was calling to ask should I go to school or stay home. We received the call all over the world at our 911 center that day.

As we pause today to remember that tragic, dark day, let us not forget the unsung heroes, the 911 dispatchers who are always heard and never seen.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. NORMA TORRES], a great leader here in Congress.
their help and support and ideas, leadership, and guidance to help rebuild this Nation and make it stronger after 9/11.

We will never forget.

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

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MALONEY for telling the story. You know, it is not just New Yorkers, I can’t imagine there is an American who doesn’t remember exactly where they were in that horrible, moment, most of us, beginning yet where those of us in the West and all over the country ached to see what happened to your community.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and all of my colleagues for all of their help for the Pentagon and Shanksville and the victims of 9/11. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I thank the gentleman and all of my colleagues for all of their help for the Pentagon and Shanksville and the victims of 9/11. We believe that we have to do something to make this country stronger to be able to prevent future attacks.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MALONEY. We always have to be careful when we are friends not to go around calling each other by our first names. But I was not here at the time of 9/11. I did not come for another decade. And yet today, even with the young people we have in our office that were just children, I mean young children, and you can’t get that sort of somber tone. It is a powerful example and something that is devastating. And we can come together. I desperately wish there were more opportunities where we must come together and both heal, deal with the fear, and then also make sure it never ever happens again.

So my reason for being on the floor this evening is I wanted to spend a moment and just touch on 9/11 and how that just affects so many of us. I am told now in Arizona we have 30 or 40 of those first responders or others who were affected who are receiving their healthcare in our community. I know of only one of two Arizonans, I believe, who lost their lives. And given what sort of pull back to our communities and personalize it.

The MATH DOESN’T WORK

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, just before we got back there was a related fact it is going to be a little geeky, but I wanted to go walk through some of those underlying numbers that lay in there. And it’s actually good news, the fact that there are really terrific things happening in our economy.

But I still want to put it in context: I have been coming to this microphone for quite a while now to say, What is the biggest issue we as a society have? If you think of my little girl that is going to graduate next year, what is the biggest impairment to her economic future? And we are going to walk through some of the math, but we are going to also walk through some of the solutions, because it turns out it is demographics.

We always put up this slide to basically sort of point out that the days of yesteryear, where Members would get behind these microphones and say, Well, if we just raise the tax on this population, or this entitlement reform over here, or we just do premium support over here that the fact of the matter is that 30 years from now, if you remove Social Security and Medicare from the budget, this country is 20-some trillion dollars cash positive. If you pull Social Security and Medicare back into the math, we are $100 trillion upside down. Mathematically, we just can’t get there.

And so, if we actually care about keeping our promises, you know, the 10,300 Americans that turn 65 every single day and start to move into the labor force to maximize that, there is already spending increases that are basically slashed for the next 10 years are solely the growth in Social Security and Medicare.

Understand, it is math. It is not Republican or Democrat. And we have lucidity around here. We have done this on the floor before, where we walk through some of the solutions that are thrown out that are completely make-believe. Well, if we just raised taxes on the rich and do this, if we just raised this number, and you understand, the math doesn’t work. You are going to have to do something that is actually hard for a broken political system. And we are going to have to do something that is big, complex, and actually holistic.

So one of the reasons we put this board up almost every time we are behind this microphone is trying to say, We actually sort of have come up with about five pillars, everything from, you know, one pillar being tax policy, trade policy, regulatory policy to maximize economic velocity, incentives to be in the labor force to maximize that, because labor force participation is crucial.

Let’s explain. After tax reform, the modelers kept coming back and saying, We believe the headwinds for the economic growth are going to be what they call capital stock, savings. Will the country have cash in its banks and those things?

Well, we have already blown the wheels off the charts off or however you want to say it in everything from repatriated cash coming back into the country which has been substantially greater than we have ever expected. Foreign investments. But also, Americans have been saving substantially more of the tax reform savings to them than we actually modelled.

But it was labor force. And we are going to come back to that because there is actually some really interesting, good news, but we have got to get our heads around it, but the two headwinds were labor force and capital stock.

We have proven capital stock is working in our favor, and all of a sudden, we got a jobs report that looks like the labor force. This violates all the smart people and the demographics who never thought that, at this point in our demographic cycle, we would be hitting these numbers.

Another thing we talk about is, how do we have population stability? Immigration, family formation. Our birth
rates, now we are at functionally negative population growth if we look at domestic birth rates. That is a real problem. If we are going to redesign immigration, can we move to a talent-based immigration system so it maximizes innovation and velocity?

Once again, you see a theme here. We must grow like crazy.

Other things: Can we put incentives into our earned entitlement programs? When you earn Social Security, you earn your Medicare, could we build some incentives in there saying, if you are healthy and feel of sharp mind, or if you want to be an entrepreneur, what can we do as incentives to stay in the labor force. You continue that, because we need you?

We have done some time on the floor where we have walked through things that are happening in countries like Japan, where they are desperately trying to stay alive because of their demographics, and then we will go on to the labor force issues—is that I believe we are in a time when technology may be one of the things that saves us. We have done time on this floor where we have walked through technology that is about to do stunningly great things for the environment.

We now have a couple of big experimental power plants that are working outside of Houston where they are burning coal and natural gas with no smokestack. They are collecting every bit of the CO2.

We have proven that technology works. Now we have had a breakthrough on being able to carbon mine the air. We have learned how to do a couple things. There is a type of genetic engineering in certain food stocks so your cow doesn’t produce as much methane. Remember, twice as much comes out of the mouth as—a bit of trivia.

It turns out, instead of just regulating and controlling and crushing the very economic growth we must have to be able to keep our social entitlement promises, let’s embrace technology.

There is technology that is about to be a disruption in healthcare costs. Our problem is that we have to legalize it.

Are you prepared to allow technology to write you a prescription if we can demonstrate that the algorithms and the sensors and those things are incredibly accurate? Are we prepared to work out some financing mechanisms for these new biological drugs that are about to cure diseases that are crushing our economy?

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Are you prepared to allow technology to write you a prescription if we can demonstrate that the algorithms and the sensors and those things are incredibly accurate? Are we prepared to work out some financing mechanisms for these new biological drugs that are about to cure diseases that are crushing our economy?
We have data that, last month, when they do the real unemployment calculation, it is the lowest it has been in modern times. We are back at 7 percent and ticking lower. The official unemployment rate stayed at 3.7.

Work with me here. The official unemployment rate doesn’t change, but we know we had a few hundred thousand new entries into the labor force. A big chunk of that was not being calculated in unemployment numbers because they weren’t even looking. Something happened in society where, all of a sudden, folks who were underemployed, who had not been looking, all of a sudden came back.

This is really, really important. I know it is geeky, but the math is absolutely critical.

The other thing that was happening was, if you dug into that unemployment report on Friday, if you take the last 3 months, all of a sudden, wages and productivity have started to spike. If you look at the demographics where all of a sudden, wages are moving at about a 4.2 percent increase in a time with very low inflation.

We all remember our econ classes. What are the two things that make an employer pay you more money? It was really simple. It was productivity and inflation.

What happens if we are in a world where there is very little inflation and, all of a sudden, we are paying people more? It turns out maybe we should have added a little labor force squeeze, a society with more jobs than available workers. All of a sudden, we get the spike of productivity we see in the last 3 months. These are good things.

We have talked behind these microphones for years now about how working men and women aren’t getting ahead, that the actual real wages have stayed flat for a couple of decades, except for substantially this last year. We really should figure out what are we doing right and continue to do more of it.

Look, it is math. Is it Republican math or Democratic math? It is math, but something is working in our society where they are coming back into the labor force.

Look, why isn’t there joy in this place? Has our partisanship become so dark that something that would be a conversation of joy, a 3.3 percent unemployment rate for adult women—this is close to the 1953 rate, and in 1953, it was a dramatically smaller population that was looking.

How about a 5.5 percent African American unemployment rate, a record low? Where’s the joy? A 4.2 percent Hispanic unemployment rate has now tied the all-time record low. A 3.3 percent unemployment rate for adult women, near the lowest rate since 1953. A 2.8 percent Asian American unemployment rate, almost touching on against the record low.

If you want to take prime age, which there is a whole reason we calculate that for productivity numbers, a 76.3 percent labor force participation, the highest rate since February 2002, and an 80 percent prime age, 25 to 54, employment rate for the first time since 2008.

There are other numbers in here. □ 1845

You would actually think for a moment there would be some level of joy of something is working in our society, where the very people we walked around here claiming that we are fighting for and that we care about is working. We just need to figure out what is working and do more of it.

U.S. household income finally matches the 1999 peak, while the poverty rate is at its lowest since 2001.

How many of you actually saw that discussed over this weekend and over the last couple of days?

It is working. For the first time, most new working age hires in the U.S. are people of color. It is working.

When I get up behind this mike and I keep trying to say we have these fivepillars that we need all of these cylinders to be clicking to be able to grow the economy so we can generate the revenue, we actually have a fighting chance to keep our promises, that labor force participation one is working right now.

Doesn’t this body understand how powerful this is? They will not shut tomorrow, and it is always dangerous to guess, but last month you saw the reality of what we call receipts, tax receipts. Tax receipts so far this year are functionally 3.1 percent higher. They have grown. They are the highest in U.S. history. And if you actually use even what they call inflation adjusted dollars, it is the second highest in history.

So the misinformation campaign saying, well, tax reform didn’t—no, tax reform is working. The revenue receipts are up.

If we could actually get some decent data on understanding social needs, Social Security and disability, we know the numbers have fallen, TANF needs have fallen. Many of these are no longer needing the U.S. Government subsidies, our taxpayer dollars, because they are working again.

Where is the joy? Yet why is the spending functionally up about 6½ percent?

Well, a big portion of that was displaced on what we call discretionary, but a big portion of that growth is demographic. We don’t do a particularly honest job of showing in a chart saying, look, this is on autopilot.

Every day, 10,500 Americans turn 65, they move into benefits, and we have set aside not nearly enough resources to cover that. As a matter of fact, the Medicare part A portion of the trust fund is gone in a couple of years.

So as we walk through this, and this chart is as impossible to read and understand, but the trendline of African American women, of Hispanics, of White workers, African American men, of Hispanics and others coming back into the labor force is a miracle. It is a demonstration of our five-pillar proposal of how we grow, how we deal with those healthcare costs that are the driver of the crushing debt that is coming down upon us not tomorrow, but very soon.

One of the pillars is actually working right now. We have demonstrated that sort of holistic theory that, when you get tax policy right, regulatory policy right—could you imagine, when we finally get ourselves and over those trade issues all cleaned up, where we can go economically?

But it is a demonstration that, economically, this affects what is happening over here on people’s ability to have the honor of work.

Mr. Speaker, I just desperately wish, when we have our debates—I know we are always going to have those moments where we have to do the shiny object because that is great politics, but how many are not—how many are not doing those things that remove that cruelty and make the next three decades for my little girl over the next three decades is a level of cruelty.

And it is not Republican or Democrat. It is math, could we ever get our heads around the fact of doing those things that remove that cruelty and make the next three decades for my little girl, for all of us, one of the most amazing portions of American history.

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

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Estes) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, throughout our district work period, I visited farms, ranches, manufacturing plants, and small businesses where people all said the same thing: It is time to pass the USMCA now. Farmers, ranchers, and workers in Kansas understand how important this monumental trade deal is, and they want it done now.

On November 30, 2018, the United States, Mexico, and Canada signed a monumental free and fair trade agreement for our countries. Since then, Mexico has made significant labor reforms and adopted the USMCA, while Canada is not far behind.

At home, the USMCA is stuck in purgatory. Congress failed to bring the USMCA to a vote over the summer, while some of
my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to slow walk and delay a vote to ratify the USMCA.

While my colleagues may want to deny, or at least delay, any victory for President Trump, the only people hurt by that delay are USMCA hard-working American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and families.

Currently, more than 12 million American jobs depend on trade with Canada and Mexico. As is the case for 45 other States, Canada and Mexico are Kansas’ top two trading partners, worth $4.9 billion every year, while supporting 110,000 jobs in my State alone. This impact underscores just how important the USMCA is for our country.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, the USMCA will create 176,000 new jobs and increase U.S. GDP by $58 billion. Exports to USMCA partners will grow by $33.3 billion, and imports from the USMCA partners will grow by $31.5 billion.

Overall, the update to NAFTA will create jobs, boost wages, and open up new markets for American agriculture and manufacturing. It also sets unprecedented standards for areas like intellectual property, small businesses, and the environment.

This is a significant improvement over NAFTA, which was actually beneficial to my district in Kansas, especially for our farmers, ranchers, and aerospace manufacturers. However, the 25-year-old NAFTA agreement was outdated and badly in need of reform and modernization.

Consider that, when NAFTA was first negotiated in 1992, Motorola cell phones were carried around in a bag, and just one in five households had a home computer. Even fewer than that could connect to a dial-up internet in order to access the world wide web, which had just been unveiled in 1991. Clearly, a lot has changed in the last 25 years, and our laws and trade deals should change as well.

As Representative of the Air Capital of the World and the breadbasket of America, I know that USMCA is critical for manufacturers, farmers, and ranchers throughout Kansas and our country. That is why I am proud to serve today on the whip team, led by Whip Steve Scalise, to help get the USMCA finalized in Congress.

Earlier this month, my team met with Ambassador Lighthizer to receive an update on negotiations, and I want to take a moment to again thank him and the entire administration for the work they did to draft the USMCA. Now it is time for Congress to do its part to secure this hard-fought fair trade deal that farmers, ranchers, workers, and families in the heartland and throughout the country deserve.

As a fierce advocate for free and fair trade, I believe a trade agreement with Canada and Mexico is crucial for Kansas and our country. However, President Trump is right to insist that trade deals both be fair and free.

Free trade allows us to export our quality agriculture and manufactured goods around the globe, while fair trade enables us to do so at a fair price without intellectual property infringement. The USMCA accomplishes both of these goals.

I have several Members here with me tonight who also want to talk. I want to talk about some more about some of the other benefits that are out there from the USMCA, but right now, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Perry), my friend and colleague.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the good gentleman for bringing this issue to light and for holding this Special Order, and, of course, my colleagues who are with me here today.

All of us who are probably older than the age of 25 have watched, probably in every State in the Union, certainly in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, every little town that you drove through that used to have a factory or two that I am privileged to represent, every little town had some small business, or maybe two or three: a shoe factory, a dress factory. One of the little towns south of us had a cigar factory or two.

Over the course of my adult lifetime, those little factories, those small employers in every single town have left. The reason they left is multiple, but one of them is because the trade deals that were signed by previous administrations encouraged them to leave. They encouraged our competitors to take them over, and we closed up shop. We lost those jobs. Our folks in America had to go find work elsewhere and get retraining elsewhere.

It has been 25 years since NAFTA was enacted. Twenty-five years is a long time. Things were different 25 years ago. There wasn’t e-commerce. We weren’t all thinking about a globalized economy.

Now these antiquated laws that we are living under are holding back our American economy. If we would just pass the USMCA—it is in the hands of the Speaker right now. If we would just pass it, 176,000 new jobs, $68 billion in growth to our economy.

Instead we have become worried about trading with China and being concerned with what China is going to do, we could trade with people we really agree with who are right on the other side of our border: Canada and Mexico.

Wouldn’t that be wonderful?

We need to modernize our laws, and that starts by allowing the USMCA to go through. That framework should be considered today. We need free and fair trade. We don’t have that right now.

We must pass the USMCA to bolster quality, family-sustaining jobs in America, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other States around our country.

The USMCA is a win for the American worker. It is great to help out our responsibilities first right here at home in our States, like the State of Pennsylvania where I am privileged to come from.

The USMCA is a great start and a strategic win. Today I am calling on House leadership to allow for the consideration of the USMCA without any further delay. Let’s do it now, let’s go through, put it on the floor, and let’s see what happens. I suspect it will pass, which means the will of the people will be done and we can get to work working more with our allies and our friends and doing better for Americans.

Quite honestly, while China is waiting to make a trade deal, one of the reasons they are waiting is because this Congress won’t approve one in the USMCA. They are saying: Why should we wait when their Congress won’t approve what we negotiate?

We need to show them that we will approve it; we do stand with the American people and the American worker. We need a better deal with China, too, and it starts with the USMCA.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me the time and for bringing this issue to the forefront.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to Mr. PERRY, my friend and colleague.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body’s consideration of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or the USMCA, which has the support of both of our neighboring nations; the majority of our Nation’s Governors, including Ohio’s Governor Mike DeWine; more than 600 trade group organizations across the Nation; our current administration; a significant number of my colleagues both in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; and myself.

The USMCA will support tens of millions of jobs across the United States. In my home State of Ohio, more than 428,000 Ohio jobs, and 428,000 Ohio jobs on the line, we can’t stand with our current administration. They are saying: Why should they do anything when their Congress won’t approve what we negotiate?

We need to show them that we will approve it; we do stand with the American people and the American worker. We need a better deal with China, too, and it starts with the USMCA.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me the time and for bringing this issue to the forefront.

Mr. BALSDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body’s consideration of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or the USMCA, which has the support of both of our neighboring nations; the majority of our Nation’s Governors, including Ohio’s Governor Mike DeWine; more than 600 trade group organizations across the Nation; our current administration; a significant number of my colleagues both in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; and myself.

The USMCA will support tens of millions of jobs across the United States. In my home State of Ohio, more than 428,000 Ohio jobs are supported by trade with Canada and Mexico.

The livelihood of my constituents is directly impacted by the success of trade with our neighboring nations. Last year, nearly $28 billion worth of goods and services were exported from my home State of Ohio to Canada and Mexico.

These exports consist of iron, steel, motor vehicle parts, and machinery, much of which come from my district in central Ohio.

Ohio is also the 12th largest agricultural exporting State. USMCA will make important improvements to secure greater market access for our farmers and will ensure the fair treatment of Ohio’s agriculture products in the marketplace.

With $28 billion in economic value and 428,000 Ohio jobs on the line, we simply cannot afford for the USMCA to fail. It is time to pass USMCA now.
Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Representative BALDERSON’s efforts and involvement in this. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my colleague. Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Kansas for yielding. I also rise today to speak urgently considering USMCA. Mr. Speaker, I have been an elected official for a while, and even when I first began this job in the 1990s, I would get complaints from people as to why we couldn’t do something about NAFTA. After four Presidents, we watched NAFTA be approved and watched jobs leave America. We finally have a President who is willing to do something about it. As mentioned before, this agreement is important for Wisconsin manufacturers and manufacturers all over the country. Wisconsin, of all of the States, has the second highest percent of our workforce involved in manufacturing, and that is why when I get home, I hear about the importance of this agreement so much.

But as important as it is to manufacturing, the major reason why I wish so much this would be brought to the floor is when I go back home, I hear so much from my agriculture sector. This is important for your corn farmer, but it is even more important for your dairy farmer. Dairy is in the worst position it has been, I think, since I was in law school in the 1980s, and I was a law clerk for someone who had a primary dairy clientele. It was so tough watching what these guys and gals went through in dairy in the 1980s.

Now, due to low prices, we are back to where we again and again watch dairy farmers wondering whether they are going to be able to hang on for another week, another month without going under. And here we have this agreement, which has been sitting here waiting to be voted on, and we are not allowed to come in here and vote on it. I believe that there may be some things you don’t like about President Trump, but he has negotiated a very important agreement here, a very important agreement for manufacturers, a very important agreement for the agriculture sector, especially dairy.

Please, do not let this agreement wait any more. Do not drive more people out of business just for partisan reasons. This is such a good agreement. It is so fair that we get a big improvement around here.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman’s time and participation in this very important topic tonight.

Now I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), my friend.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Kansas who represents my wife’s family. How do you not take a couple of minutes, but there were a couple of things as we were doing some economic numbers before.

The modeling right now says if USMCA passes, it is another half a point on GDP growth. In a $21 trillion economy, that is real money, but it is also hundreds and hundreds of thousands of jobs. But there is even another complexity that I am going to ask for folks to think about. Think of the issues we have, particularly with China. So many of us would love to have a healthy relationship with China, but we don’t believe they are playing by the WTO rules. They break rules.

So we are seeing a world right now where lots of manufacturers are thinking about moving parts of their supply chain. Wouldn’t it be an amazing thing that we do our job here, we get this trade agreement passed, and those components, those issues, parts of those supply chains are back here in North America? Our ability to say our continent, our trading block, our ability to not only have robust economies but ourselves, but these labor provisions.

And this is the last thing I really wanted to hit on. The gentleman and I are on the whip team for passing this. We have had a number of visits with the House leaders on the left. With a lot of them, I will get this: Well, David, I am concerned about the enforcement of the new labor standards the Mexican Government has passed.

Remember, their legislature has passed this. Their President has signed it. There are dramatic changes in their labor rules. I will bring them a copy and say: But you don’t understand, it is not the 1940s and 1950s anymore. You don’t send in a team of union representatives to go inspect one of the 70,000-some facilities and inspect and then write up a report saying we don’t think you are—in today’s world, we have that thing called the internet.

The law the Mexican Congress passed actually has provisions in there for privacy and secrecy and the ability to use technology that if you believe your labor rights are being abused in a Mexican factory, you can actually document it. You can actually put it on a blog and those things.

So how do we drag our brothers and sisters from the left to actually walk away from the excuse of the labor improvement enforcement, and get them to understand that it is not the 1950s anymore? We are going to use technology and the ability to have these new labor standards in Mexico which can be enforced on a very large scale using technology?

This is incredibly important to our economic growth, and our entire regions. Let’s get this done.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his comments. The gentleman pointed out so much about how important it is to get that economic growth so that we have got the value in the economy and how much effort that Mexico has made, already changing the laws in their country to make sure that it is a much more viable process for them, and it is more productive for them as well.

Mr. Speaker, I come from Kansas, and specifically in my district, we have a lot of agriculture and a lot of issues there. And the USMCA is a great improvement for the agriculture sector. It sets some unprecedented standards for agriculture, regulation, and biotechnology.

It maintains duty-free access for American farmers and ranchers and provides new access for U.S. wheat, eggs, dairy, and poultry. In fact, the International Trade Commission estimates an additional $277 million in increased dairy sales to our North American partners under USMCA. That is a 44 percent increase that will bring a much-needed lift to the U.S. dairy industry.

Another area is manufacturing. USMCA maintains a duty-free access for U.S. manufactured goods and removes some of the United States Trade Representative estimates that USMCA will add $34 billion in automotive investment and create 76,000 new American jobs.

It also incentivizes higher wages, requiring 40 to 50 percent of auto content to be made by workers making at least $16 an hour, helping to boost wages across many manufacturing sectors.

It requires Mexico to pass some sweeping labor reforms to improve standards there and create an even more even playing field for American labor. Mexico has already followed through and enacted these reforms which are already benefiting U.S. manufacturing.

Canada and Mexico buy more products manufactured in America than our next 10 trading partners. Exports of manufactured goods to Canada and Mexico account for more than 2 million jobs across our country.

As a representative of Wichita, I have seen firsthand how important it is that our manufacturers have access to global markets. Transportation equipment exports account for $2.7 billion last year, and the growth in manufactured goods exports from Kansas, grew 8.5 percent from 2010 to 2018.

In addition, Kansas aerospace exports to Canada and Mexico have increased by more than 20 percent over the last decade, helping grow the total value of manufactured goods exported from Kansas to Canada and Mexico to $3.2 billion in 2018. These numbers underscore the importance of USMCA for American manufacturing.

I wanted to mention that I have got some other representatives here who also have a big impact and a lot of value to add to that. Right now I would like to call on my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania.
Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Kansas for allowing me to have the opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my voice in support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, better known as USMCA, which will expand markets for our farmers and manufacturers, while ensuring cheaper goods for Americans.

In Indiana, our economy thrives because we are one of the largest manufacturing states in the country, and an agricultural center for the Nation. We make the steel that towers above the Nation’s largest cities in skyscrapers. We build the cars that drive along the Nation’s highways and byways, and we grow the crops that feed the Nation’s citizens and livestock.

We have built this economy, in part, through strong international relationships with countries as far away as Japan, and as close as Canada and Mexico. In fact, it is the partnerships with our closest neighbors to the north and south that are the strongest and most vital.

In 2018, Canada was the Hoosier State’s most significant international export market, purchasing 34 percent of all the exports, for a total of $13 billion in products. The 72 Canadian companies which operate in Indiana employ over 15,600 citizens of our State.

Mexico follows as our second biggest export market, purchasing 13.8 percent of our exports, injecting $5.5 billion into the Hoosier heartland. There are 2,000 manufacturing firms and 61,000 jobs in Indiana who rely on exports to these countries.

Beyond the strengthening of our export market, USMCA will also increase the percentage that must be built in North America to 75 percent and require that 40 percent of the auto content be built by workers earning $16 an hour or more.

This legislation is boon for manufacturers in the State and the Hoosier workers that are the lifeblood of our economy.

□ 1915

This legislation also opens up Canadian markets to our U.S. turkey and dairy products and ensures that our agricultural producers have access to Mexico’s markets tariff-free. Right now, due to the international trade conditions like the current delay in this deal, Hoosier manufacturers are seeing their growth stymied. The Hoosier farmers are hurting as corn, soy, and pork markets have taken major hits in the past few years. The longer we wait, the worse it gets.

Nearly every day I hear from constituents who are anxious to get this trade deal passed so that we can keep our economy in high gear. Our farmers and manufacturers in the Fourth District need this deal for both the certainty and the prosperity it will provide.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Florida, which I have the privilege of representing, relies on trade with Canada and Mexico to survive and thrive. From transportation equipment to machinery to agricultural products, in 2017 alone, Florida exported $6.7 billion in goods to Canada and Mexico.

We are not alone. Canada was the leading market for United States goods exported, followed closely by Mexico in 2017. These allies account for 34 percent of U.S. exports and 35 percent of U.S. imports. They are our strategic partners and an important part of our successful economy here in the United States.

Continuing the long history of our successful trade relationship is essential to bringing the United States economy into the 21st century. That is why Congress should pass the USMCA. By implementing the USMCA, we would be creating 176,000 additional American jobs and continuing to grow our economy by over $68 billion.

This agreement will protect American intellectual property, update our digital trade rules, enable data to be transferred cross-border, and expand markets for American agricultural products. USMCA maintains the successful duty-free access for American farmers in Mexico and opens the Canadian market up for the first time to American dairy, wheat, chicken, egg, and turkey products. American dairy farmers alone would see their access to up to 3.59 percent of the Canadian dairy market, and the dairy farmers in my district in the 17th District of Florida can use every little bit of an opportunity to sell their products.

Improving USMCA will ease the uncertainty facing Florida farmers and ranchers, allowing them to make new investments to grow operations.

This deal is a good deal for Florida and America, and it is time that the majority bring this important measure to the floor.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), who is my friend and colleague.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Florida, which I have the privilege of representing, relies on trade with Canada and Mexico to survive and thrive. From transportation equipment to machinery to agricultural products, in 2017 alone, Florida exported $6.7 billion in goods to Canada and Mexico.

We are not alone. Canada was the leading market for United States goods exported, followed closely by Mexico in 2017. These allies account for 34 percent of U.S. exports and 35 percent of U.S. imports. They are our strategic partners and an important part of our successful economy here in the United States.

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Improving USMCA will ease the uncertainty facing Florida farmers and ranchers, allowing them to make new investments to grow operations.

This deal is a good deal for Florida and America, and it is time that the majority bring this important measure to the floor.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL). Representative ROGER MARSHALL is my fellow Kansan and colleague.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank so much the gentleman, my friend and fellow colleague from Kansas, for leading on this issue and giving me the opportunity to speak about it.

Certainly, times are very tough in agriculture, the toughest I have ever seen, the toughest, certainly, since the 1980s. The passage of USMCA, the NAFTA 2.0, is the single greatest thing
Congress could do for our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and workers.

The President has delivered, and now it is time for Congress to deliver. Delaying the implementation of this program hurts agriculture across Kansas because the deal would enable Kansas producers to trade more commodities by opening the Canadian market up for American dairy, wheat, chicken, and eggs, some for the very first time.

Additionally, this agreement will grow our business with our very top two customers, Mexico and Canada, meaning thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in increased exports for Kansans.

Finally, the unprecedented standards for agricultural biotechnology will support 21st-century innovations in agriculture and lay the groundwork for future agreements with other countries around the globe.

Some of the brightest thinkers in the world are in America, but these innovators have been robbed of billions of dollars over the previous decades due to intellectual property theft. USMCA can’t be delayed any longer, as new protections for intellectual property will drive innovation and create even more jobs by strengthening protection of patents, trademarks, and secrets.

President Trump’s USMCA also levels the playing field for workers in my State by expanding guarantees for the enforcement of labor protections across North America. Future economic growth and jobs for Kansas and America are increasingly dependent on expanding U.S. trade and investment opportunities in the global marketplace. President Trump has delivered this incredibly bipartisan deal, and it is long past time for Congress to bring it up for a vote to usher in a new era in American trade.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time for us to bring USMCA to the floor.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members who have joined us tonight.

As President Trump has often pointed out, many of our trade deals have not always created the best outcomes for American workers and products, but by approving the USMCA, we can take one giant step in overhauling one of the most fundamental trade deals with our closest neighbors. We can also create a great template for success, especially if we turn our focus to improving trade relations with China and other countries.

As we stated tonight, there is no time like the present to get started moving this process forward, making sure that every provision of the deal is enforceable so we can get the USMCA across the finish line. The cost of delay is too great for our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and families.

Again, I thank my colleagues for joining me tonight, and I ask this body to pass the USMCA now.

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, if innovation is the lifeblood of our nation’s economy, then the Dallas-Fort Worth region might very well be considered our country’s heart. World-class research hospitals and several leading pharmaceutical companies call DFW home, where they create life-saving treatments while keeping our local economy strong. Their continued success, however, depends on their access to international marketplaces, especially those in Canada and Mexico. That is why passing the United States Mexico Canada Agreement, or “USMCA,” is so important.

One of the biggest concerns that I hear from innovators in my district is the protection of their intellectual property (IP) rights in the international marketplace. President Trump and Trade Ambassador Lighthizer have delivered on this issue by installing robust IP protections into this trade agreement with Canada and Mexico. The USMCA provisions that strengthen patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets protections mean that innovators can spend less time worrying about protecting their IP rights and more time creating products and Texas jobs.

Not only will this job creation boost the American and Texan economies, but it will also benefit two of our country’s strongest trading partners. In 2017, Texas alone exported $127 billion in products to Canada and Mexico, with 72 percent of the materials imported by Texan manufacturers coming from those same countries. The Texas economy flourishes from its trade relationship with these countries, and in the end, trade with Mexico and Canada supports 948,900 jobs in our state.

Many Americans are already living in the strongest economy of their lifetimes, and the USMCA is critical to ensuring that our country’s industries can continue to prosper and sell their goods freely and fairly across the globe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage and ask that it be brought up for a vote as soon as possible.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker’s table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2035. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to develop a strategic plan to expand eligibility for the PreCheck Program to individuals with Transportation Worker Identification Credentials or Hazardous Materials Endorsements; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o’clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 9 a.m.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 205 (RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-29)

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Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1941, the Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

Under clause 3 of Rule XIV, executive communications are taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

2037. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulations and Energy Efficiency, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Inclusion of Early Stage Technology Demonstration in Authorized Technology Transfer Activities (RIN: 1991-A141) received August 27, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2038. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revision of Reference Methodology (EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0293; FRL-9998-39-Region 7) received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2039. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — CI-Cl Linear and Branched Chain Alkyl D-Glucitol Dianhydro Alkyl Ethers; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance (EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0201; FRL-9997-14) received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2040. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Technical Amendments to Revise Regional Office Address (FRL-9998-08-Region 6) received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2041. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Ohio; Corrections (EPA-R05-OAR-2007-0178; FRL-9997-18-Region 5) received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2042. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Lipochitooligosaccharide (LCO) MOR116; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance (EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0300; FRL-9998-41-Region 7) received August 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2043. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Pest Control Exemptions (EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0424; FRL-9998-82) received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2044. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Nevada; Revisions to Clark County Ozone Maintenance Plan (EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0635; FRL-9998-83-Region 9) received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2045. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Ohio; Corrections (EPA-R05-OAR-2007-1092; MI-97-1; EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0212; FRL-9998-75-Region 5) received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2046. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department (EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0105; FRL-9998-76-Region 9) received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2047. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Clark County, Nevada; Revise Regional Office Address (EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0106; FRL-9998-77-Region 9) received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2048. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland, Transmittal No. 19-49, pursuant to section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2049. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on politically motivated boycotts of, divestment from, and sanctions against Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.


2052. A letter from the Director, Office of the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a notification of a disagreement with, transmitting the Department’s final rule, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 33409(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2981-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2053. A letter from the Director, Office of Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Coastal Zone Management Act Program Change Procedures (Docket No.: 09016573-6999-09) (RIN: 0660-AQ31); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2054. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Revisions to Civil Penalty Amounts (RIN: 2105-AE80) received August 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.
Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0355; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD; Amendment 2019-0355; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-15; public comment received August 29, 2019] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2060. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0366; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD; Amendment 2019-0366; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-28; public comment received August 29, 2019] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2061. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0367; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD; Amendment 2019-0367; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-29; public comment received August 29, 2019] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2062. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0368; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD; Amendment 2019-0368; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-30; public comment received August 29, 2019] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2063. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Marion, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0369; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD; Amendment 2019-0369; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-31; public comment received August 29, 2019] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2064. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Marion, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0370; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD; Amendment 2019-0370; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-32; public comment received August 29, 2019] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2065. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Security Threat Disqualification Update [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0365; Amendment Nos.: 3-2, 61-43, 63-42, and 65-59; Product Identifier 2019-NE-12-AD; Amendment 2019-0365; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-19; public comment received August 29, 2019] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2066. A letter from the Chief, Commercial and Trade Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological Material From Algeria [Docket No.: 17-NEW-001 (RIN: 1515-CA49) received August 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 866)] to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
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missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, and Oversight and Reform, 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 Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. Brown of Maryland, and Mr. RAUH):

H.R. 4290. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate a week as a “Battle Buddy Check Week” for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. McEACHERN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 4291. A bill to help reduce household energy burdens by expanding access to solar energy for low-income households, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4292. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide injunctive relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4293. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 4294. A bill to empower States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, to distribute revenues from oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf to certain coastal States, to promote alternative energy development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MAYSU (for herself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SLOTIN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, MRS. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. TZ hello of California):

H. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent resolution recognizing September 11, 2019, as a “National Day of Service and Remembrance”; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. HUZENGA, and Mr. MITCHELL):

H. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 11 to September 17 as “Patriot Week”; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HUZENGA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SLOTIN, and Mr. BERNSTEIN):

H. Res. 552. A resolution calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence of wrongdoing or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

131. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Mississippi, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 596, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

132. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respecting the powers of the United States to facilitate and ensure implementation of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrating Outside Networks Act of 2018 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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. KELLER:

H.R. 4279. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7—“The Congress shall have Power To provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. MCEACHIN:

H.R. 4280. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 4281. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 4282. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 4283. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 4284. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 4285. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 4286. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. Slotkin, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mrs. Lawrence, and Mr. Lee:

H.R. 4287. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McEACHIN:

H.R. 4288. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms.Slotkin, Mr. Biggs, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. Lawrence, and Mr. Lee:

H.R. 4289. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. NORTON:

H.R. 4290. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—“The Congress shall have Power To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 4291. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 states “The Congress shall have Power To . . . constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court . . . “ And Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 states “The Congress shall have Power 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 of Office thereof.”

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4292. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 4293. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 35: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 96: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 144: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 146: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 250: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 303: Mr. LOBSECK.
H.R. 307: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 366: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 444: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 518: Mr. TIPPET, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 569: Mr. Aguilar.
H.R. 575: Mr. Cline.
H.R. 585: Mr. Pocan and Mr. Cicilline.
H.R. 647: Mr. Bacon, Mr. Aguilar, Ms. Bass, Mr. Bost, and Ms. Fudge, and Ms. Moore.
H.R. 649: Mr. Buds.
H.R. 674: Mrs. Lee of Nevada.
H.R. 727: Mr. Grijalva and Ms. Garcia of Texas.
H.R. 728: Mr. Morelle.
H.R. 737: Mr. Griffith.
H.R. 744: Mr. Amodei and Mr. Flores.
H.R. 826: Ms. Scanlon.
H.R. 822: Mr. Khanna.
H.R. 832: Mr. Watkins and Mr. Emmer.
H.R. 840: Mr. Desaulnier, Mr. Moonny of West Virginia, Ms. Loghren, Mr. Brooks of Alabama, and Mr. Mitchell.
H.R. 912: Mr. LaMalfa and Mr. Peterson.
H.R. 942: Mr. Fletcher.
H.R. 961: Mr. Cardenas.
H.R. 996: Mr. Amodei.
H.R. 1002: Mr. Peters, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Mast.
H.R. 1008: Mrs. Fletcher.
H.R. 1025: Mr. Gallego.
H.R. 1049: Mr. Tipton.
H.R. 1102: Mr. Garamendi.
H.R. 1139: Ms. Kirkpatrick and Mr. O’Halloran.
H.R. 1193: Mr. Zeldin.
H.R. 1173: Mr. Kuster of Ohio.
H.R. 1174: Mr. Pocan and Ms. Slotkin.
H.R. 1186: Ms. Lee of California, Ms. Jackson Lee, and Mr. Levin of California.
H.R. 1221: Mr. Cohen.
H.R. 1236: Mr. Scott of Virginia.
H.R. 1309: Mr. McNerney and Ms. Frankel.
H.R. 1337: Mr. Brown of Maryland.
H.R. 1342: Mr. Fortenberry.
H.R. 1354: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 1390: Mr. Huffman.
H.R. 1407: Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico and Mr. Kiddee.
H.R. 1498: Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 1516: Ms. Tlaib.
H.R. 1327: Mr. Zeldin.
H.R. 1534: Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Moulton, and Ms. Pressley.
H.R. 1534: Mr. Schrader.
H.R. 1607: Mr. Gaetz.
H.R. 1651: Ms. Tittus.
H.R. 1671: Mr. Desaulnier.
H.R. 1682: Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 1695: Mrs. Brooks of Indiana.
H.R. 1707: Ms. Dean.
H.R. 1709: Mr. Allred.
H.R. 1737: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 1749: Ms. Plaskett and Mr. King of Iowa.
H.R. 1761: Mr. Palmer.
H.R. 1768: Mr. Garcia of Illinois and Mr. Brenden F. Boyle of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1767: Ms. Sheehill.
H.R. 1773: Mr. Walberg.
H.R. 1776: Mr. Huffman.
H.R. 1799: Mr. Lipinski.
H.R. 1413: Mr. King of New York, Ms. Moore, and Mr. Evans.
H.R. 1865: Mr. Sherman and Mr. Tipton.
H.R. 1669: Mr. Welch and Mr. Williams.
H.R. 1873: Mr. Bost and Mr. Malinowski.
H.R. 1901: Mr. Rush.
H.R. 1933: Mr. Watkins.
H.R. 1934: Mr. Vraspy.
H.R. 1940: Mr. Gougl.
H.R. 1966: Mr. Cartwright.
H.R. 1975: Mr. Loudermilk.
H.R. 1978: Mr. Cardenas and Mr. Cinseros.
H.R. 2016: Mr. Keller, Mr. Flores, Mr. Olson, Mr. Reschenthaler, and Mr. Guthrie.
H.R. 2047: Mr. Bacon.
H.R. 2048: Mr. GotWay and Mr. Gooden.
H.R. 2054: Mr. Deutch.
H.R. 2062: Ms. Craig.
H.R. 3954: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 3962: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3973: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3981: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4019: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 4032: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 4056: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4061: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 4077: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 4086: Mr. Welch and Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4096: Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mrs. Lee of Nevada.
H.R. 4116: Mr. Johnson of Georgia.
H.R. 4150: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4155: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. VEAHEY.
H.R. 4187: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4194: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 4206: Mr. TRONE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4207: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4211: Mr. Ted LIRU of California.
H.R. 4219: Mr. DESJARLAYS.
H.R. 4237: Mr. KATKO and Miss Rice of New York.
H.R. 4248: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4249: Mr. POCAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4255: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4263: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4270: Mr. SIBES, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 4272: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JAYAPAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. VELEZ, Mr. VEAHEY, and Ms. WATSON of Florida.
H.R. 4277: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.J. Res. 38: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. PERRY.
H. Con. Res. 27: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. KENNEDY.
H. Con. Res. 52: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 4287: Mr. KATKO and Miss Rice of New York.
H.R. 4288: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4289: Mr. POCAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4295: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4303: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4313: Mr. SIBES, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 4316: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JAYAPAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. VELEZ, Mr. VEAHEY, and Ms. WATSON of Florida.
H.R. 4327: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.J. Res. 38: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. PERRY.
H. Con. Res. 27: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. KENNEDY.
H. Con. Res. 52: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H. Res. 49: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H. Res. 197: Mr. MAST.
H. Res. 160: Mr. BAIRD.
H. Res. 189: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MAST, and Mr. GALLAGHER.
H. Res. 326: Mr. CASE, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. GABBARD.
H. Res. 387: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. Lee of California, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. ALLRED.
H. Res. 439: Mr. SPANO.
H. Res. 475: Mr. CHABOT.
H. Res. 513: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. PAPPAS.
H. Res. 517: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. YARMOUTH, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. MAST, Ms. ESCH, and Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.
H. Res. 543: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are our defender and hope. On this 18th anniversary of September 11, we thank You that You never give us burdens too great to bear. Continue to remind us that eternal vigilance is the price for freedom. Comfort the families of those who died on 9/11, surrounding them with Your mercy and grace.

Lord, incline Your ears to our intercession. Teach us how to embrace the things that lead to peace, as You instructed us on how to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. Today, use our lawmakers as instruments of reconciliation.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the Chaplain opened our Senate in prayer reminding everybody of what happened 18 years ago today: a disastrous attack on the United States. So referring to that same 18 years, I say our Nation changed forever following an act of cowardice from the enemies of freedom. The events of September 11 have left an indelible mark on American and world history and certainly on the lives of the victims’ families. We pray now, as we did then, that God may heal the wounds of those injured and the wounds left by those lost that day, that they may find peace on this solemn day.

Let us recall the sacrifices made that day to preserve our way of life and honor each day the pledge “Never forget.” I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The quorum is present.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this week there was a significant development when it came to public health and our children in America. By way of preface to what I am about to say, I want to make clear that I have, during the course of my service in the House and the Senate, focused a great deal of my efforts on tobacco, the addiction that people have to tobacco cigarettes, and the deadly consequences of that addiction. My family has been touched by it, as most have in America. I lost my father when I was in high school. He smoked two packs a day and was a lung cancer victim. We buried him at the age of 53. I remember it to this day.

I am not alone. Literally, thousands of Americans—millions, perhaps—have a similar story to tell. So from the beginning of my service in the House of Representatives, I started looking for ways to deal with this scourge of tobacco cigarette addiction. Many years ago—over 25 years ago—I introduced a measure that banned smoking on airplanes, and to my great surprise it managed to pass the House of Representatives. Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey was on the Appropriations subcommittee with the responsibility. He took it on in the Senate, passed it, and we made it the law of the land, banning smoking in airplanes.

I didn’t realize—and I am sure Senator Lautenberg didn’t—that we had triggered a tipping point or reaction that led to banning smoking in so many other venues. Ultimately, we have now reached a point where no one would consider walking into my office and lighting up a cigarette or even asking for permission to light a cigarette. It is just unthinkable. But 25 years ago it was common. So things have changed.

But what has happened is that Big Tobacco, having lost its marketplace position and lost its profitability, has moved to a new product—e-cigarettes and vaping. This company, JUUL, which is the largest provider of e-cigarettes, has a huge stock ownership in tobacco companies. This is their new venue, their new approach. But much as with tobacco cigarettes, the vaping industry is counting on addicting children so that they can build their ranks, addicting teenagers. Tobacco cigarettes did the same with Joe Camel and the Marlboro cowboy, and now we see the same thing occurring when it comes to e-cigarettes and vaping.

The previous Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Dr. Gottlieb, characterized it properly when he called it an epidemic. We now have 3 percent of American adults who are using vaping devices, 20 percent of America’s teenagers and children using vaping devices. It is a new school year, and many of these students are heading off to middle schools and high schools.
with new backpacks and maybe new laptops and new lockers and new teachers and new classrooms and new friends and a new addiction—the addiction of vaping.

Vaping targets kids. They are introducing flavors that can be be ‘Unicorn Milk’ or ‘Gummy Bears’? They are all out there. They are designed to lure children, and, sadly, they are effective.

For months now I have been begging this administration and the Food and Drug Administration to do something about this epidemic, and until this week they did little or nothing. But this week was a breakthrough. The Food and Drug Administration announced early this week that they were going forward from advertising that their vaping products were a safe alternative to tobacco cigarettes.

The reason is obvious. We have hundreds and hundreds of vaping victims now showing up in hospitals. As of last night, the sixth victim in America died from a vaping experience. Why? Because they are ingesting into their lungs, in these huge clouds of vapor and smoke, chemicals that are killing them, chemicals that are stopping their lungs from functioning. They don’t realize it at the time; it is just another wild experience. They are told, by the way, by JUUL and others that it is safer than tobacco cigarettes. It is not safe. It is deadly, and it is an epidemic in this country.

This week the American Medical Association stepped up its role, and I want to commend them. Dr. Patrice Harris, the President of the American Medical Association, released the following this week:

In light of increasing reports of e-cigarette-related illnesses across the country, the [American Medical Association] urges the public to avoid the use of e-cigarette products until health officials further investigate and understand the cause of these illnesses.

She goes on to say:

The e-cigarette-related lung illnesses currently sweeping across the country reaffirm our belief that the use of e-cigarettes and vaping is an urgent public health epidemic that must be addressed. We must not stand by while e-cigarettes continue to go unregulated. We urge the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to speed up the regulation of e-cigarettes and remove all unregulated products from the market. We also call on the FDA to crack down on flavors, as well as marketing practices, that enhance the appeal of e-cigarette products to youth.

The Food and Drug Administration Commissioner has the authority today—before the sun sets on this 9/11 anniversary—to ban these flavors that are attracting children and adding to this epidemic in our high schools and middle schools across the United States. This Food and Drug Administration Administrator, Dr. Ned Sharpless, has the authority to take off the market scores, if not hundreds, of vaping devices that have been introduced to the public after the official date of deeming last year. He can do it today. It would have a dramatic effect starting tomorrow. He could start enforcing it with the retailers across America if he cared and if he were serious.

Now we have an opportunity to test him and to test this administration. Will they go the next step in warning America’s schools, teachers, families, and children about this epidemic and the deadly consequences of ignoring it? Will they take those products off the market this week?

That is my challenge to them and to every American parent who dearly loves their child and cares about their health. I hope they will join me in this effort to urge this administration to take decisive action for children across America. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, with only a few weeks to go until the end of September, we have no time to waste when it comes to appropriations. We had planned for the Senate to consider bipartisan bills from the Appropriations Committee as soon as next week and make significant headway before a partial interim continuing resolution becomes necessary at the end of the month.

To this end, Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate, plus President Trump, formed an agreement 1 month ago. It set up funding levels to inform the appropriations process, and everyone on both sides agreed there would be no poison pills, no partisan wrangles thrown into the gears.

Unfortunately, yesterday brought some disturbing signals that Democrats may be rethinking that commitment. New poison pills are apparently being discussed that every lawmaker knows what we agreed to last month. In fact, back on August 1, I asked consent to print the entire terms sheet that everyone agreed to in the RECORD. So I maintain hope that Chairman SHEVLY and Ranking Member LEAHY can oversee a smooth process and that we can move all 12 appropriations bills in a bipartisan fashion. Both sides have every reason to want a smooth appropriations process to proceed as we had planned. I hope that is exactly what happens in committee this week and on the floor soon thereafter.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOLTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, as he departs the position of National Security Advisor, I want to thank Ambassador John Bolton for his many years of valuable service to our country. Personally, I have always appreciated John’s candor and clear advice. He possesses something of a rare breed—the ability to understand the world the way it is. He knows that there are many threats to American interests and that those threats will not recede if we retreat. He understands that American leadership is essential to keeping these threats and combating with our partners and allies rarely act without us.

John appreciates the need to stand up to adversaries like Putin’s Russia, to approach them from a position of strength, and to hold them accountable for their lies and their misdeeds.

I wish him well wherever his career next takes him.

Of course, the President deserves to choose his own team, and he has assembled a strong one. He and our NATO allies are well served by such as Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Esper, and Director Haspel.

I hope the President selects a National Security Advisor who will work well with these seasoned national security leaders who have been chosen by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another entirely different matter, for 18 years today’s date has held a tragic meaning. September 11 is a day of mourning, a date stained by the terrorist murderers of so many innocent people in New York, Arlington, and Pennsylvania. With each passing day, the reality is still shocking, and the wounds are still painful.

Each year we remember the innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives: workers rushing to meet the perpetrators of this evil to justice and to prevent similar attacks.

Our way of life was changed by 9/11. It changed our approach to security. It awakened us to determined new enemies.

The dangers of radical Islamic terrorists remain real. Al-Qaida, its enablers, and its allies still plot against America from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Mali, and beyond. ISIS persists in Iraq and Syria through an underground network of terrorists who have not yet given up the fight. We cannot walk away from these dangers. We must not leave our work undone.

Many nations have a stake in defeating the terrorists. We have also been with the United States since the early hours of this fight. Eighteen years ago, this critical alliance invoked article V for the first time.
Since then, many NATO partners have fought side by side with us in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and in Syria.

We are not—and need not be—the world’s policeman. Winning this long war, like the Cold War, will require sustained efforts and contributions not only from the United States but from our allies and especially from local partners. For example, in Afghanistan the vast majority of the fighting is done by local security forces, but we must always remember the global coalition to defeat the terrorists will not lead itself.

So, today, as we remember the tragedies of the past, we must renew our commitment to leading the fight for a better future. Today, may the memory of the nearly 3,000 victims who lost their lives on this day in 2001 serve as a lasting reminder of what is at stake in the fight against terrorism and steel our resolve to continue the hard, necessary work of defending our homeland.

May we always keep foremost in our thoughts the U.S. servicemembers, intelligence officers, diplomats, and first responders who have given their lives in pursuit of our Nation’s security.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the Akard nomination, the majority leader and Democratic leader both have a minute to speak and the Senate then observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

**REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, our country, our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day.

I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on my way up, a firefighter I did blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year, we pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those we lost, but we also recognize, in the aftermath of September 11, the resilience of the American people. The resilience of New Yorkers shone through one of the darkest hours in our country.

Looking back remains difficult even after 18 years. I still vividly recall the city of New York and every fifth or sixth street is named after a firefighter or a police officer who died, as are parts of Brooklyn, Bay Ridge, and places like that. I will never forget. I think of it all the time.

The day after, when President Bush sent Senator Clinton and me to go up to New York in planes, we were the only planes in the sky. We were in an airliner that had us surrounded by F-18s and F-16s. When we landed, we went down the hall of death and burnt flesh was in the air. This I will never forget, a thousand people lined up—no one knew who had lived and who had died—with little signs: Have you seen my mother, Mary? Have you seen my son, Bill?

That stays with me.

I remember the generosity of New Yorkers. A man who owned a shoe store just north of the Towers gave out free shoes to everybody who was fleeing. Many of them had lost their shoes in the long trek down the stairs.

I remember the valor of the first responders who rushed to the Towers. I remember a firefighter from Staten Island, based in Brooklyn, who went to his firehouse, put his full gear on, and ran through the tunnel with about 60, 70 pounds of gear on. It was his day off, but he knew he was called. He went up the stairs of the World Trade Center and was crushed when the Twin Towers collapsed. So there is a lot.

Another way I think of this every day, as I am sure you have noticed, is the way that the world changed on September 11.

For the first responders, this 9/11 carries with it a lot of emotion. A few months ago, some of the heroes that day were here in Washington to celebrate the permanent reauthorization of the Victim Compensation Fund. I thank the first responders who came to Washington and helped to secure this funding, especially those who are no longer with us—James Zadroga, Luis Alvarez, my friend Ray Pfeifer. Wherever they are, I hope they are looking down with the knowledge that their brothers and sisters are being taken care of today.

God bless those good heroes. May God continue to bless this resilient Nation.

Later this morning, I will return to the floor with the Republican leader and my colleagues as we will respect a moment of silence in memory of September 11.

**APPROPRIATIONS**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a different subject, I return this morning to the topic of appropriations.

We have until the end of this work period to figure out a way to continue government funding, and there is good talk of a short-term continuing resolution so the government doesn’t run out of money on September 30. Yet the larger question is how this Chamber is going to proceed or not proceed with the 12 appropriations bills that fund our government.

Despite many disagreements between the majority and minority in this Chamber, the Senate has been able to produce several bipartisan budget deals even in the Trump era. The reason we have been able to do this is that both parties have been committed to working together throughout each stage of the appropriations process. Bipartisan appropriations work will not work without it.

Earlier this summer, the Democrats and the Republicans negotiated the broad outlines of a budget deal in good faith. We allocated the 302(a)s and came up with a side agreement. After that, the very first step in the appropriations process is to agree, in a bipartisan way, with the allocations for the 12 subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee. That is what we did in 2018, and I believe it passed the committee unanimously—or maybe with one dissenting vote. It was passed unanimously on a bipartisan basis.

The Appropriations Committee passed those 302(b) allocations 31 to 0. That is how we thought it was going to work for the future, and already we are running into trouble with those allocations this time around.

The Republican majority on the Appropriations Committee has unilaterally proposed putting in an additional $12 billion for the President’s border wall, taking away $5 billion of funding for Health and Human Services—desperately needed programs like healthcare and fighting opioid addiction and cancer research—and putting it into the wall. The American people are clear: this is one issue that is OK, without our acknowledgment, and without our acceptance. The Republican majority also reprogrammed funding from other sources and backfilled money the President proposed to pilfer for military construction, which has affected, I believe, 30 States.

My Republican colleagues and my friend the Republican leader know very well this will not fly with Senate Democrats. We are not going to vote for it. We are attempting to jam down our throats. It puts an additional $12 billion into the wall? Forget that. So here
we are already—at step No. 1 in the appropriations process—and the spirit of bipartisanship that is necessary for this work might be melting away.

I just warn my Republican colleagues that this is not a way to produce a budget. Republicans and Democrats tried to go down last year. They shut down the government and then had to walk it back. We all know what a partisan process looks like. President Trump caused the longest government shutdown in American history by demanding funding for a border wall and then by shutting down the government when Congress didn’t give it to him. Let’s not go down that exact path again 9 months later.

There is still time to get the process back on track. The Republican majority should sit down with the Democrats on the committee and, in good faith, come up with the 302(b) allocations and come up with the order by which we bring bills to the floor. Then we can get this done. We don’t have to go back to a CR. Certainly, our side wants to avoid a Republican shutdown, and we hope our Republican colleagues will have the good sense not to let President Trump lead them into that cul-de-sac once again. So let’s sit down and make this work. That is what we want to do, not unilaterally declare something and say, “Take it or leave it,” but work together so both sides have to give.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on gun safety, in response to the scenes of senseless violence in America throughout the month of August, Leader McCONNELL promised that the issue of gun safety would be “front and center” when Congress returned. The Democrats are eager to debate this issue, and we believe we have a great place to start with the bipartisan, House-passed bill on universal background checks.

Leader McConnell has also suggested that President Trump will determine if and what the Senate will vote on, so we need to know what the President might support. Throughout the month of August, frankly, the President was all over the map, saying he wanted strong background check legislation one day and then saying, the next day, we don’t need it at all. It makes no sense. The President doesn’t seem to know what he wants.

My Republican colleagues met with the President yesterday and ostensibly discussed the issue of gun safety. I asked them: Where is the President on this issue? Will he support universal background checks?

We are eager to move forward with this debate. We want to vote on the H.R. 8 bill—a simple bill of universal background checks. It does not impede anyone who has a legitimate gun owner. It only gets in the way of felons and spousal abusers and those adjudicated mentally ill from getting guns, and no one thinks they should get them.

The President needs to make his position clear and soon. If he continues to refuse to state his position or if he keeps flipping around, the Senate should proceed to debate this on its own. In any case, you can be sure the Democrats will not let the issue of gun safety fall by the wayside.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 of Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

TORNADO IN SIOUX FALLS

Mr. THUNE, Mr. President, as I begin this morning, I need to mention the tornado that tore through my hometown of Sioux Falls last night. Thankfully, there appear to have been no fatalities, but there has been a lot of structural damage. I am grateful to all of the emergency responders, the electric crews, and all of those who worked through the night to keep the residents safe. My thoughts are with Sioux Falls today and with all of those who are dealing with the tornado’s aftermath.

I had the opportunity this morning to speak with Mayor Paul TenHaken, of Sioux Falls, who, as you would expect, was up throughout the night with his team. I just expressed our support to him, to his team, and to our community as they begin the process of the cleanup and recovery from what was a very damaging storm.

I also talked with my wife and older daughter, who lives in Sioux Falls, both of whom were in their basements last night as, I think, most residents were. I am glad to hear that people took the necessary steps to keep themselves and their families safe.

As I have reported, so far—knock on wood—we are not aware of injuries that have been associated with this. Yet I will continue to monitor the situation, and my staff and I are available to help with whatever will be needed as a result of this storm.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. President, it is difficult to believe it has been 18 years since the September 11 attacks. That bright September morning is seared in our minds as if it were yesterday—the shock, the sense of unreality, the days that followed, the grief and loss but also the resolve and the unity of purpose.

As always, where there is great evil, good rises up in response—that of the courageous passengers on Flight 93 who laid down their lives to protect their fellow Americans; Vietnam veteran and Morgan Stanley security chief Rick Rescorla, who successfully evacuated more than 2,000 of his firm’s employees from the World Trade Center and died returning to help evacuate others; Jason Thomas and Dave Karnes, two former marines who dropped everything and sped to the Towers and saved the lives of the two Port Authority officers they found who had been trapped in the rubble; National Guard soldiers Heather Penney and Marc Sasseville, who scrambled their F-16s—weaponless—to meet the threat that was headed toward DC and who were prepared to sacrifice their lives byramming their aircraft into Flight 93 before it could hit the Capitol or the White House; and the hundreds of first responders who ran toward the Towers, toward the inferno, and headed up the steps while civilians ran down.

Then there were the senseless ordinary Americans who were far away from New York and Washington who flooded blood banks and overwhelmed organizations like the Red Cross with their donations; who stormed Heaven with prayers for the missing and the injured and the suffering; and who proudly flew their flags and reached out to their neighbors.

In the weeks and months and years to come, there was a 9/11 generation of soldiers—those who were already serving. They deployed around the globe to fight terror and to defend freedom, and thousands of them laid down their lives. Eighteen years on, we remember the horror of that September day, but we are also lifted up by the memory of the heroes who came out of it.

For those of us who serve in Congress, the anniversary of September 11 is also a reminder of the obligation we have to provide for our Nation’s defense and to ensure that we are prepared to meet and defeat any threat. In the Senate, I am proud that both parties have worked together over the past couple of years to rebuild our Nation’s military after years of its being underfunded and the strains of the War on Terror.

September 11 is also a reminder of our obligation to care for those who stood between us and danger—our soldiers, our veterans, our first responders, and our law enforcement officers. They take on a heavy burden so the
rest of us can live in peace and safety. We owe them a debt we can never repay. This year, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to make the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent to ensure that first responders whose health has suffered in the wake of the September 11 attacks, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania will have the resources they need.

While we are on the subject of veterans, like all of my colleagues, I am saddened that Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON is retiring this year.

We were members of the same freshman class in 2004. During his time here, he has been a tireless advocate for veterans, and he will be deeply missed. Yet his hard work in the Senate as the head of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs will continue to bear fruit, and we will continue to work to implement the VA reforms he shepherded to ensure our veterans receive the care they have earned.

I was in Washington, DC, on September 11, and I evacuated the Capitol Complex. One of the things I remember very clearly from that day were the Capitol police officers who directed us out of the buildings. We were running for our lives, and they were not. They were not going anywhere until they were sure every last man and woman had made his way out. Against that spirit of courage and self-sacrifice, evil will never ultimately triumph. God bless all of those who stand between us and danger. May He bless the victims of September 11 and their families, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor. 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. President, now I would like to speak on the nomination of Governor Michelle Bowman to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo as Assistant Secretary for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. First, I will speak about Governor Bowman. Michelle Bowman currently serves as a Governor on the Federal Reserve Board and was the first person to fill the Federal Reserve’s community banking seat, after her confirmation last year by a bipartisan vote of 64 to 34. Her current term expires on January 30, 2020, and President Trump has renominated her to the same position for a four-year term.

Prior to serving as Governor, she was the State bank commissioner of Kansas from January 2017 to November 2018. She also served as vice president of a Kansas-based community bank, Farmers & Drovers Bank, between 2010 and 2017 and served in a number of government roles.

Confirming Governor Bowman to a new 14-year term will provide the needed stability on the Board.

During her current term as Governor, she has played a crucial role at the Federal Reserve by providing the community banking perspective and highlighting the importance to people, households, and small businesses across this Nation, as well as the U.S. economy broadly. She has also contributed meaningfully toward appropriately tailoring regulations in accordance with S. 2155.

If confirmed, I am confident her experience and skill will continue to benefit the Board in promoting the effective operation of the U.S. economy and serving the public interest. I will be voting in support of Governor Bowman today and urge my colleagues to vote in support of her nomination, as well, today.

Turning for a moment to another important issue regarding the Federal Reserve, I want to reinforce that maintaining the independence of the Federal Reserve and its utmost importance in this country.

The recent remarks made by former New York Fed President Dudley urging the Federal Reserve to sway an election by using monetary policy are incredibly troubling. The job of the Federal Reserve is to provide this Nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system. I continue to encourage the Federal Reserve to conduct its monetary policy while remaining independent of politics.

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE BOWMAN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the nomination of Governor Michelle Bowman to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo as Assistant Secretary for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

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NOMINATION OF THOMAS PETER FEDDO

Mr. President, now I would like to turn to the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or what we often call CFIUS.

CFIUS plays an important role in today’s investment market by reviewing the national security implications of certain transactions involving foreign investment in the United States. Congress recognized and underscored the importance of this national security job when it repurposed the previous Assistant Secretary slot with passage of FIRMA last July.

Up until that time, the Assistant Secretary split his time between CFIUS and work on international markets, and, today, the Assistant Secretary for Investment Security is dedicated 100 percent to CFIUS responsibilities.

Mr. Feddo’s nomination comes at an important time in history, when China’s ambitions forced Congress to re-examine the reliance of U.S.-China commerce on the laws and regulations governing that connectivity.

FIRMA expanded the jurisdictional reach of CFIUS to better protect U.S. cutting-edge technology companies from hostile foreign takeover and influence based on a couple of concerns. First, CFIUS did not have visibility into many investments from China that might provide coercive influence over U.S. cutting-edge technology companies. Second, we were resulting in technology transfers that could convey capabilities, advancing Chinese economic and security interests while restricting the U.S. military and national security structure from leveraging those technologies.

FIRMA not only increased the bandwidth of CFIUS but also expanded the resources given to it to meet the new level of today’s challenges.

The time is now to fill this sensitive vacancy.

Thomas Feddo is the ideal candidate to take up the mantle because he has the keen intellect and natural suspicions of a dedicated financial warrior. He currently leads the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Investment Security in executing Treasury’s statutory role as the chair of CFIUS during one of the most trying times that investment markets have seen. For over a year now, he has led the CFIUS team at Treasury, but before that, he put in a 7-year tour at the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control, where he oversaw implementation and enforcement of some 20 U.S. sanctions programs.

As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, with a degree in naval engineering, Mr. Feddo served as a lieutenant in the Navy’s nuclear submarine force and as an officer at the Navy Antiterrorist Alert Center. Because of his unique experience and his technical education, once confirmed, Mr. Feddo will hit the ground running, moving CFIUS forward in pursuit of its continuing mission to guard U.S. technological leadership from foreign adversaries.

I look forward to continuing conversations with him on opportunities to improve America’s foreign investment review system, which requires constant vigilance. I also look forward to working with him on how we can make CFIUS programs more effective and efficient and be a faithful steward of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Feddo enjoys nearly unanimous support from stakeholders, which speaks volumes to his strong track record of experience and expertise. Thomas Feddo’s nomination was advanced by voice vote in the Senate Banking Committee on June 18, 2019, with overwhelming bipartisan support. I ask my colleagues once again to vote to confirm him to this critical post.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take just a moment to remember the thousands of innocent lives lost 18 years ago today and to thank the first responders who so bravely sacrificed their lives in the service of others.

September 11 is a day that will always weigh heavily upon our Nation, but it is also a day that shows the strength and resiliency of the American people. In response to tragedy, we saw beyond our differences and came together as a country. That is the lesson we must never forget.

Today, I come to the floor as a voice for families in my home State of Washington who have had enough of just “thoughts and prayers” and as a mother and a grandmother who has had enough of them too. My heart breaks with every report of another horrific mass shooting.

Like my colleagues here today and the rest of our country, I watched in horror last month as devastating gun violence claimed dozens of innocent lives and threw our communities into a state of panic yet again. This heartbreak has become all too familiar to so many of us—from El Paso and Odessa, to Dayton, to Maryville in my home State of Washington, and in schools and movie theaters and community spaces across our country. So what we are doing here today is refusing to accept this as normal and demanding the change that so many families are crying out for.

Democrats are committed to heeding the voices of countless people back in Washington State and across our country who are desperate for leaders in this Washington—including President Trump and Leader MCCONNELL—to address this crisis. That is why I am joining my colleagues on the Senate floor throughout today to call on Leader McConnell to take up commonsense gun safety legislation, starting with universal background checks.

We know universal background checks save lives by closing dangerous loopholes to help keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. That is why more than 80 percent of Americans support universal background checks and are demanding immediate action from Congress to make universal background checks the law of the land.

There certainly are other steps we can take as well. We could strengthen the extreme risk protection orders, which have worked in my home State of Washington. We could revive the assault weapons ban, invest in gun violence prevention research, and regulate firearm magazine limits. All of those steps could save lives and prevent more families from enduring the horrific pain and trauma too many already have. But H.R. 8—the universal background check legislation that has already passed the House—is literally sitting here in the Senate, waiting to be called up for a vote.

As I close, I want to be clear. Passing universal background checks must be this body’s first order of business if we are serious about protecting people and helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands. I and all of my Democratic colleagues and so many others are going to keep up the pressure as long as we have to, to get this done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Ms. SANCHEZ) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think everyone knows today is the anniversary of 9/11. Many of us here remember evacuating this very building on September 11, 2001. We knew the world would never be the same.

For the people of New York, an ordinary beautiful morning was brought to a screeching halt as the clear blue sky filled with smoke when those at the Pentagon, the workdays in service of our Nation turned into a literal nightmare. For hundreds of air travelers, routine flights gave way to tragedy, and, thanks to the bravery of passengers and crew, incredible acts of heroism.

The Senate stands with the entire Nation as we remember the terrible events of 18 years ago today and the nearly 3,000 innocent lives that terrorists stole away. We stand in solidarity with those who still grieve, and we honor the patriotic resolve that inspired first responders, U.S. service members, and countless Americans who dedicated themselves, that day and since, to selflessly keeping our Nation safe.

May our remembrances renew our commitment to building a world where terrorist evil has no home. May we never forget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I join the leader. Eighteen years ago, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, our country, and our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania.

More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day. I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who held me on the way up, and a firefighter whom I went around the city doing blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year we correctly and appropriately pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those whom we lost and think of them. The day after 9/11, I called for every American to wear the flag. I wear this flag every day. I have worn it every day since then in memory of those we lost.

We also remember our resiliency and the resiliency of New Yorkers, the brave firefighters, police officers, and
ordinary citizens who rushed to the Towers.

The generosity—I will never forget a man who had a shoe store about two blocks north of the Towers who just gave shoes to all the people. Some men and women who had to run 90 flight of stairs after the shoe store closed. I remember the next day, when President Bush sent us back up to New York, and the empty skies, a bunch of F-16s around our plane going down there, smelling the smell of burnt flesh and death in the air, and seeing over 1,000 people lined up with little signs, because we didn’t know who was gone and who might be found: Have you seen my sister Mary? Have you seen my son Bob?

It was an awful day and a day we live with, but we know our resilience. Many predicted that Lower Manhattan would be a ghost town forevermore. It has more people, more jobs, and more business than before 9/11. Many thought that America would succumb to the evil brutality of the terrorists. We have fought back very successfully.

We think, finally, of those who are dying now as a result of their rushing to the Towers into the hours and days after. And we are also grateful that this body has now fully funded both the health fund and the fund to see that the families are taken care of.

It is an amazing moment. I live with it all the time. I ride my bike around the city, and every seventh or eighth block has the name of a street commemorating someone who died—firefighter this and police officer that.

But America, New York, and all of us have not been beaten by the terrorists and have not been beaten by adversity. On this issue, we have come together, and we will prevail.

I ask unanimous consent that there be a minute of silence in memory of those who were lost both that day and who are still being lost because of their heroism a few days after.

MOBILE TELLS OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIVES LOST IN THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

(Moment of silence.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cabaniss nomination?

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Ex.]

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathleen Lukan, of Kansas, to be Deputy Secretary of Management for a term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is—Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lukan nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Ex.]

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The Senate having come to the exercise of its judgment, the Senate ordered the nominations confirmed.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Ex.]

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.
Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, today we commemorate the solemn anniversary of the attacks on 9/11/2001. If you ask anybody who is old enough to remember where they were that day, I bet they can tell you. It is one of those rare moments that defines an entire generation.

I have always said that it is etched in my memory and in the memory of the other event in my lifetime that might rise to that level of shock and horror, and that is the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Eighteen years ago today, I was in Austin, talking on the phone to then-Governor Rick Perry. When I hung up the phone, my wife said, “You need to see this,” pointing to the TV set. That was just as the second plane hit the World Trade Center, and we all know what came after.

It was the same image that millions of Americans struggled to understand on that morning and still struggle to comprehend today—how someone could be so evil and so determined to take innocent lives.

September 11 serves as a dividing line in American history. For people like me, there is before and there is after, but for an entire generation of younger people, there is really only after. I believe this 18th anniversary carries special weight because those young people who have only lived in a post-9/11 world will now be able to vote in our elections, serve in our military, and help shape the future of our country.

It is a reminder of our commitment as a nation to carry out the promise we made in the wake of the attack to “never forget”—never forget.

As Americans, we must remain vigilant, and we must remain with a strong sense of purpose and a strong moral clarity regarding confronting evil in all its forms. We vow to carry the memory of the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day in our hearts, the sense of patriotism that welled up inside of each of us, and the determination never to be intimidated, and never to back down.

Today, we remember the families who lost loved ones that day, the first responders who ran away from but toward the danger, and the commitment of our Armed Forces, who fight to eradicate terrorism around the globe each and every day.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. President, on another matter, for a quarter of a century, the North American Free Trade Agreement has guided our trade relationship with Mexico and Canada. When NAFTA was created, it removed the barriers that impeded free and fair trade to provide benefits to all three countries. While this agreement has certainly had its share of critics and champions, I think there is no doubt—at least—NAFTA has been a benefit to the United States.

Last year, U.S. goods and services trade with Mexico and Canada totaled nearly $1.4 trillion. Across every industry, from major companies to small businesses, an estimated 12 million American jobs rely on trade with our NAFTA partners—12 million.

The importance of maintaining strong trade relationships is not only understood in my home State of Texas, and that is in large part because—and this will not surprise you—last year, Texas exported nearly $110 billion in goods to Mexico, our next-door neighbor, 35 percent of our State’s total exports.

We also imported more than $307 billion in goods from Mexico, including everything from motor vehicle parts to computer equipment, to tractors and avocados. It is not uncommon to see certain products, like automobile parts, crossing the border multiple times during the manufacturing process before eventually making their way to the customer.

NAFTA has fueled the economies of every State across this country, but a lot has changed since NAFTA was ratified in 1993. At that time, the internet was in its infancy, smart phones didn’t exist, and shopping at brick-and-mortar stores was the norm. Countless economic advancements and our digitalized marketplace have fundamentally changed the global trade landscape. So it is clearly time to modernize NAFTA and bring it up to current needs.

I was glad when the heads of all three NAFTA partners—12 million.

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We also imported more than $107 billion in products from Mexico, including everything from consumer goods to raw materials.
have seen that this President, President Trump, views civil servants as his adversaries.

The President has sought to silence those whose work or words contradict him, even when the facts are clear. We saw this factually when the Administration’s National Weather Service tried to calm residents in the State of Alabama after President Trump falsely stated that Hurricane Dorian would put them at severe risk. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross publicly threatened to fire the agency’s leadership after they corrected the President’s false statements about Hurricane Dorian and Alabama. Just within the last hour, the New York Times is reporting that the order to change the statements at NOAA came directly from the White House in the form of a directive from the Acting Chief of Staff to the President, Mick Mulvaney.

We have also seen this pattern at other times. We saw President Trump stand side by side with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, while President Trump sided with Putin’s claims about noninterference in the 2016 Presidential elections, and where President Trump threw our own U.S. intelligence agency experts under the bus.

These assaults on the Federal civil service and the efforts to undermine the integrity of the Federal civil service have also included an assault on Federal employees. This administration’s workers are targeted when they are organized and have representatives who can speak on their behalf. Many—not all, but many—of the Trump agency heads have repeatedly refused to comply with the law and to bargain in good faith with their workers. Instead of trying to negotiate, they have tried to impose contracts and terms unilaterally. This has already happened at the Social Security Administration, where agency management unilaterally imposed discipline on the unions representing their workforce. Some of these issues are now tied up in the courts, but I would hope we could work on a bipartisan basis to address these challenges.

Now, President Trump is trying to abolish the Office of Personnel Management. That brings me to the nomination of Ms. Cabaniss, because she will be directed to preside over the dismantlement of the agency—that is, if the President has his way. I know those of us in Congress with a different view will be weighing in as well.

The Office of Personnel Management is an independent Federal agency with an absolutely vital mission—to strengthen and protect the Federal civil service system. Their job is to protect the integrity of our Federal civil service and prevent it from being hijacked by political forces.

I know there has been a lot of talk that this is all about civil service reform. As I look at the proposals, I don’t see that way. I see these proposals as an attack on the institution that defends our civil service system. The Office of Personnel Management needs a strong, independent leader who will protect the Federal workforce from partisan interference and defend agencies from the administration’s attacks. After looking at Ms. Cabaniss’s record, I don’t believe she is the person to lead OPM. When she chaired the Federal Labor Relations Authority, morale was dead last among small Federal agencies. That is the agency that is supposed to resolve disputes between Federal employees and management, but 55 percent of their decisions were overturned under Ms. Cabaniss’s jurisdiction.

OPM’s mission is vital to the success of our Federal civil service and their ability to deliver services to the American people. We need a leader who is going to stand up for the integrity of that system, not one who is going to preside over the dismantlement of that agency. So I hope we can work on a bipartisan basis, but this country preserves one of its vital assets, which is a nonpartisan civil service.

Presidents come and Presidents go, and Presidents, of course, give direction to the different agencies, but we will be doing a great disservice to the people of this country if we allow politicalcronyism to seep into this system and create an environment where people fear speaking out, telling the truth, and providing facts.

I want to take this opportunity today, as we discuss the nomination of the Office of Personnel Management, to raise that larger issue, and I hope we will be united in that effort because lots of citizens would suffer from political cronyism. The United States has helped shield itself from that by establishing decades and decades ago a system that tries to immunize ourselves against that kind of political infection. This day-to-day work that we ask people to do and carry on, on behalf of the American people. Let’s work together to accomplish what I believe is a bipartisan goal.

I yield the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. Speaker, the senior assistant legislative clerk will call the roll.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, before I get into the substance of what I want to talk about, I am going to take my own personal opportunity to remember those whom I lost 18 years ago today. Like everyone else, I remember the events. I was at home with my family and young children, not knowing what was going to happen and seeing things happen. I can remember taking one of my kids to daycare when the second tower collapsed and the radio announcer simply saying, “They are both gone,” and the emptiness we felt.

We remember today, we honor today, and we honor not only those whom we lost but honor those responders who were there and who still suffer the pain from having to deal with all of that.

Mr. President, I rise today almost a year ago since I first came to the Senate floor to discuss the state of our Nation’s historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

As I did then, and many times since, I am again making an urgent call to colleagues to act. At the end of this month, at the end of the fiscal year, nearly half of all Federal funds these schools receive each year, and have for a long time, is going to end. That is $255 million annually that they have had available to count on for well over a decade. That is going to come to a screeching halt if we don’t act, and we need to act now.

These historic institutions serve nearly 4 million students of color. Many of our Nation’s brightest minds have matriculated at these institutions. HBCUs are the leading educators for African-American PhDs in science and engineering. They are foundational to building generational wealth in communities that have long faced headwinds in doing so. They are doing amazing work. They are doing incredible work with very limited resources and with their own individual financial hardships to contend with.

In Alabama, we are home to 14 HBCUs—more than any State in the country—so they are an integral part of my home State’s higher education system. Just as important, they are integral to the economy of Alabama.

Minority-serving institutions play a central role in America’s higher education system. For example, Hispanic-Serving Institutions account for 13 percent of all nonprofit colleges. Yet they enroll 62 percent of all Hispanic students.

More than 75 percent of students at HBCUs and nearly 80 percent of students at Tribal colleges and universities receive Pell grants, compared to only 32 percent of all students. These schools have a very serious purpose for these kids who otherwise might get shut out, likely would get shut out of our higher education system. They are so important, and they face such headwinds financially to achieve.

Last year, we held our first HBCU summit where we brought all of our HBCUs in Alabama together to talk about the challenges, to talk about what they were facing but also to talk about opportunities to work together, to work with the State, to work with the Congress, to try to meet the challenges of our workforce of the 21st century, to try to meet the challenges of our educational system in general. What I saw was an amazing group of people—amazing group of people who were doing the work for their students and for their communities, people who
are committed from deep down in their heart. They love these kids. They love the purpose they are serving, and they are thinking ahead. They are thinking outside the box. These are not institutions that are so cookie cutter that they are not willing to explore opportunities. They are seizing every one of those opportunities.

I have seen firsthand, though, increasing concern from our HBCU community, giving their significance, it is frustrating that some of these students continue to struggle. Public and private HBCUs face extensive capital project needs but have few funding sources to rely on.

On top of that, the Government Accountability Office found that HBCUs’ average endowment is half the size of a similar sized non-HBCU. We have to change that. We have to make sure we provide to these schools because the bottom line is, they have no safety net. They work, they do things. The bottom line is, they have no safety net. If they have no safety net, neither do the students they serve.

This time last year, I was talking about legislation I had introduced called the Strengthening Minority Serving Institutions Act, which would have permanently extended and increased mandatory funding to all minority-serving institutions. That bill was supported by one-quarter of the Senate, and it was simply killed. We could not get the bipartisan support that I hope we will get in the future. However, now we are here and only have 19 days left in the fiscal year, and these schools still have no certainty about whether these critical funds will continue to be available.

We hear a lot in this body about the need to make sure we continue to fund government, that we continue to fund our military, and about how devastating even a continuing resolution might be to the Defense Department because it doesn’t allow the military to plan. I agree with that. I see it. This is $255 million that all of a sudden is going to be cut off completely from schools that have relied on it, that have planned, that have done their job and get this done. Well, it is difficult. You all know it. It is difficult, but this is a piece of legislation that ought to receive support in this body and across the aisle, across the Capitol in the House.

This week we have a lot of the HBCU presidents and administrators who are on Capitol Hill. They are coming up for their own benefit but also for the Congressional Black Caucus events that are happening here on the other side of the Hill. It would be the perfect time to get this to the floor. I don’t see it on the schedule anywhere, but it would be the perfect time.

As people are looking here, as they are watching us and listening to us, they know we support their institutions. Let’s show them we support their institutions.

I urge my colleagues to support the FUTURE Act. I have worked with us. Sponsored legislation and, in turn, support our Nation’s minority-serving institutions of higher education. Their graduates deserve the same quality education as any other student, and they deserve a fair shot at a successful future. Let’s get this done. Let’s do our job and get this done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am going to be joined on the floor over the course of about an hour or so by Members of the Senate who are desperate for our colleagues to wake up and recognize that the time for action to quell the epidemic of gun violence in this country is now. It was also last week. It was also a month ago and a year ago. It was also nearly 7 years ago, after the shooting in my State of Connecticut that felled 20 little 6- and 7-year-olds attending first grade at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

We tend to pay attention to the mass shootings—the ones in Odessa, El Paso, Dayton, and Newtown—but every single day in this country, 20 people die from gunshot wounds. Most of those are suicides, but many of them are homicides, and others are accidental shootings. When you total it up, we are losing about 33,000 people every year from gun violence and gunshot wounds. That doesn’t make sense. That doesn’t make sense to me because it is a big country, but how does that compare to the rest of the world or at least the rest of the high-income world? Well, that is about 10 times higher than other countries of similar income and of similar situation as the United States. Something different is happening here. It is not that we have more guns and less mental health treatment. It is not that we have less resources going into law enforcement. The difference is that we have guns spread out all over this Nation, many of them illegal and many of them of a larger caliber and capacity that were designed for the military in which this slaughter becomes predictable.

We have a chance to do something about it right now in the U.S. Congress. We have a chance to try to find some way to come together over some commonsense measures.

I just got off the phone—a 40-minute conversation with the President of the United States. I was glad that he was willing to take that amount of time with me, Senator MANCINNI, and Senator BROWN and Senator SCOTT to talk about what we can figure out to do to get Republicans and Democrats on board with a proposal to expand background checks to more gun sales in this Nation. In particular, we were talking about expanding background checks to more commercial gun sales. That is certainly not as far as I would like to go, but I understand that part of my job here is to argue for my beliefs and my convictions but then try to find a compromise.

There is no single legislative initiative that will solve all of these issues, but what we know is, if you want to take the biggest bite out of gun crime as quickly as possible, increasing the number of background checks done in this country is the way to go. All we are trying to do here is make sure that when you buy a gun, you prove that you aren’t someone with a serious criminal history or that you aren’t someone who has a serious history of mental illness.

In 2017, about 170,000 people in this country went into a store, tried to buy a gun, and were denied that sale because they had an offense on their record or a period of time in an inpatient psychiatric unit, which prohibited them from buying a gun. Of those 170,000 sales that were denied, 39 percent of them were convicted felons who had tried to come in and buy a gun, and some of them knowing they were likely prohibited from buying those guns.

The problem is, that isn’t a barrier to buying a weapon—being denied a sale at a gun store. Why do we know that? It is because just a few weeks ago in Texas, a gunman who went in and shot up 7 people who died and 23 who were injured failed a background check because he had been diagnosed by a clinician as mentally ill and had triggered one of those prohibiting clauses, but then he went and bought the gun from them knowing they were likely prohibited from buying those guns.

The problem is, that isn’t a barrier to buying a weapon—being denied a sale at a gun store.
a background check attached to it. He then took that weapon and turned it on civilians.

This happens over and over again every single day. Estimates are that at least 20 percent of all gun sales in this country—without a background check. These aren’t gifts of guns to a relative or a loaner to somebody who is going to go and use it for hunting on a Saturday or Sunday; this is about legitimate commercial transactions. 20 percent of which, when they involve guns, happen without a background check.

We also have plenty of data from States that have decided to expand background checks to make them universal. States requiring universal background checks for all gun sales have homicide rates that are 15 percent lower than States that don’t have those laws.

In Connecticut, we have research showing that when we extended background checks to commercial sales or all private sales in this country, very few things are more popular than expanding background checks to all gun sales through a local permitting process, we had a 40-percent reduction in gun homicide rates. Compare that with the State of Missouri, which repealed its permitting law, which was their way of making sure that anybody who bought a gun has to get a background check. They saw a 23-percent increase in firearm homicides immediately after they started allowing people to buy guns without a background check.

There is your data. It is pretty incontrovertible. You can get pretty immediate and serious returns—safety returns—if you expand background checks to all gun purchases. But the benefit to a U.S. Senator who has to go back for reelection every 6 years is that not only are background checks as a legislative initiative impactful, they are also very politically popular. In fact, very few things are more popular than expanding background checks to more sales.

Ninety percent of Americans want universal background checks. Apple pie is not that popular. Baseball is not that popular. Background checks are. You are not going to get in trouble with your constituents if you vote to expand background checks to all commercial sales or all private sales in this country. You are going to get rewarded politically if you do that. I don’t argue that that is the reason you vote for background checks, but I think you should accept the plaudits that will come to you from your constituents if you support this measure.

I don’t think the President has made up his mind yet. After spending about 40 minutes on the phone with him this afternoon, I don’t know that the President is convinced yet that he should support universal background checks.

I was with the President right after the Parkland shooting, and he said he would support universal background checks, and then he didn’t support them after speaking to representatives of the gun lobby. I am sure the gun lobby will come in and talk to the President this afternoon or tomorrow and try to explain to him why he should once again endorse the status quo.

The status quo is not acceptable to Americans in this country. People are sick and tired when they walk into a Walmart. Parents are heartbroken when their children come home and tell them about the latest active-shooter drill they participated in. I know that from direct experience, because I have been face-to-face with then-kindergarten gartner tell me about being stuffed into a tiny bathroom with 25 of his other colleagues and told by his teacher to remain as quiet as possible because they were practicing what would happen if a stranger came into their school. Some of the kids knew what it was really about and some of them didn’t, but my 7-year-old—6 years old at the time—knew enough to say to me: “Daddy, I didn’t like it.” No child should have to worry about their safety when they walk to school.

I am not saying that universal background checks can solve all of our gun violence issues in this country. I will say that because they will save, it will also send a message to our children and to families in this country that we are not encased in concrete, that we are trying our best to reach out across the aisle and come to some conclusion to save some lives.

I will tell you that peace of mind, that moral signal of compassion and concern that we will send, will have a value, as well, next to and beside the actual lives we save.

Leilah Hernandez was 15 years old. She was a high school student when she was shot by the gunman in Odessa, TX. Her grandmother Nora explained how Leilah would spend a lot of her time with family and would drop by after school to visit her grandmother. She described Leilah as a happy girl who adored her parents. She was described at her funeral as “a naturally shy girl who became a quiet leader on the basketball court.”

Lois Ogleby was 27 when she was killed in the Dayton shooting. Her friend Derasha Merrett said: “She was a wonderful mother, a wonderful person.” According to the children’s father, Ogleby face-timed him after she was shot, saying “Babe, I just got shot in my head. I need to get to my kids.”

She died that day in Dayton.

Jordan and Andre Anchondo were 25 and 23 years old when they were amongst the 22 who were killed in El Paso. The couple had dropped their 5-year-old daughter at cheer practice, and then they went to Walmart to pick up some back-to-school supplies. Their bags were searched, but that was the end of it. He survived the shooting, probably because it looks like Jordan died shielding her baby, while Andre jumped in front of the two of them. The baby was found under Jordan’s body and miraculously suffered only two broken fingers.

On August 31 in Buffalo, NY, Norzell Aldridge saw an altercation happening from a distance. He went over to the altercation to try to defuse the situation. He was a youth league football coach. As he tried to deal with this altercation, he was shot and killed. One of his friends said: “The guy died a hero trying to save somebody else’s life.” We will never look at that walk in football with him said: “His legacy will always be never give up, give it your all, and now his legacy is through his son.”

You haven’t heard of Norzell because he didn’t die in a mass shooting. He is just one of the routine gun murders that happen every single day in this country. It matters just as much as those that occurred in El Paso and Dayton and Odessa, and we can do something about those right now.

I am begging the President to come to the table and agree to a commonsense background checks expansion bill that will save lives. I am begging my colleagues here to do the same—figure out how to get to zero political liability in it for you. There are thousands and thousands of lives to be saved.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow my colleague from Connecticut after his powerful and eloquent description of the lives that have been lost, the stakes of this decision, and the clear path we have—an opportunity and an obligation to save lives.

Let me begin where he ended. The President of the United States has an obligation here to lead. If he does, we will have legislation that will literally save thousands of lives. He has an obligation, as we do, to find a way to save these lives.

All of us have seen all too often the needless, senseless, and unspeakable done by guns. We have focused on the mass killings, but those 90 deaths a day consist of the drive-by, one-by-one shootings in Hartford and New Haven and Bridgeport and cities and towns and communities around the country. No one is immune. No family is untouched, through friends and relatives and workplaces and through suicides, which are a major part of those 90 deaths every day in this country. Domestic violence is made five times more deadly when there is a gun in the home.

The President must not only come to the table but lead. And if he will not lead, get out of the way because we have an obligation to move forward and take advantage of this historic opportunity and obligation.

Just weeks ago, in one 24-hour period, massacres in El Paso and Dayton left 31 people dead. Eleven days ago, a shooter in Odessa, TX, killed another seven. Communities are forever changed by the events that we witness in our Nation. The trauma and the stress done in schools to our children by the drills they conduct, by the anticipation that
They are about to carry out an attack. They achieve it by complementary means. They experience, the expressions of anguish, the look on those faces, it was only the beginning of their nightmare. It transformed Connecticut. What we did in Connecticut was adopt commonsense measures and comprehensive steps to stop gun violence. The lesson of Connecticut is not only that those steps have reduced gun violence, including homicide, but also that States with the strongest laws are still at the mercy of the ones with the weakest because guns have no respect for State boundaries. They cross State lines, and they do damage and death in States like Connecticut with strong gun laws. Through the Iron Pipeline, it comes from other States to our south. Since that day at Sandy Hook, there have been 2,218 mass shootings in the United States, and over 2,000 times, parents have sat, as did those parents at Sandy Hook, and waited to know whether their children were OK. Children who left in the morning with no inkling about the violence that was to unfold.

There is no reason people have to live this way in the United States of America. America has no greater proportion of mental health issues than any other country. We have a higher rate of gun violence. We can prevent it through commonsense steps and comprehensive steps that will save as many lives as possible. We can possibly keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. That is the principle of the two main proposals likely to come before Congress. There is no reason to wait to pass these steps.

To keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, do it through background checks, which have to apply universally to all States for them to be effective. Experts estimate that 80 percent of firearms acquired for criminal purposes are obtained from unlicensed sellers. A study found that States that have universal background check laws experienced 52 percent fewer mass shootings. Background checks prevent people who are dangerous to themselves or others from buying firearms, and, likewise, emergency risk protection orders take guns away from people who are dangerous to themselves or others. These two concepts have a common goal, the same end. They achieve it by complementary means.

The vast majority of perpetrators of mass violence exhibit clear signs that they are about to carry out an attack. The shooter in Parkland, as my colleague Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM has said, all but took out an ad in the newspaper saying that he was going to kill people at that school in Parkland. The police were repeatedly alerted to his violent behavior, including a call from his family member who begged the police to recover his weapon.

Today, in Florida, she could ask for an extreme risk protection order under a Florida law signed by my colleague Senator SCOTT as Governor. In the 17 jurisdictions that have passed emergency risk protection order laws, enforcers can petition courts to temporarily restrict access to firearms with due process. At a hearing this morning in the Judiciary Committee, we learned from one of the judges in Broward County who enforce these laws that they have worked to prevent shootings, including many suicides, and they enable mental health help to be available as well. These laws prevent suicide. The majority of those gun deaths in the United States, in fact, are suicide, which is accounting for 60 percent of those 90 people killed every day.

Emergency risk protection orders are effective, but they are resource intensive, and that is why Senator GRAHAM and I have worked hard and we are close to finalizing a measure that will provide grants and incentives to other States that are considering or may consider these kinds of laws. Together with Senator GRAHAM, I have been working hard on this legislation, and we are close—after extensive discussion, not only between us but with the White House and with our colleagues—to a bill that can muster bipartisan support and pass this body. The Charleston loophole must be closed. I have been leading that fight in the Senate to fix all problems for years. The House passed bipartisan legislation on background checks, H.R. 8, and on the Charleston loophole that would fix the problem of would-be murderers having access to guns simply because information is unavailable within the time limit that is set.

Guns should not be sold simply because a deadline for a background check is not met. Most are done literally within seconds or a minute, but some require more extensive work. There is no reason to wait to pass these measures.

Neither should we wait to pass a safe storage bill that we believe would have prevented deaths like Ethan Song’s, perishing in Guilford. This past January, Ethan Song would have celebrated his 16th birthday, but a year earlier, he was accidentally killed by a gun stored in his friend’s closet, accessible to him. His family and idol, Mike Song, thousands of other families across America lose children in gun violence every year. It is a parent’s worst nightmare, and, in many cases, safe storage, including possibly Sandy Hook, would have prevented a mountain of heartache and a river of tears.

The Songs have been so strong and courageous, as have been the survivors of the victims’ families in Sandy Hook. They have been the powerful faces and voices of this effort and the most effective advocates.

The groups that have been formed in these past years, raising awareness and mobilizing all across this town—Guilford, Bridgeport, Newton, Bridgeport, Sandy Hook Promise, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action are only some of them. They are mounting a political movement, and we need to hear them.

History will judge us harshly if we fail to heed that call for commonsense reform. The voters will judge harshly, as well, the colleagues who fail to heed that call.

We need to keep in mind that gun violence is not one problem. There is no one solution. There is no panacea. We need to aim at all of these measures, including a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The House, just this week, approved a ban on high-capacity magazines, as well as an emergency risk protection order statute.

Gun violence is many problems—not one. It is the loopholes in the background check system; it is the failure to safely store firearms; it is an arbitrary deadline for completing a background check; and it is the lack of emergency risk protection orders that take guns away from people who are dangerous to themselves or others with due process.

I have worked on this issue for more than two decades—almost three decades since I was attorney general first elected in the State of Connecticut. There has been progress. The progress has achieved results. Now it is this body’s obligation to take that next step. I implore of the United States to state his support, which my colleagues across the aisle have said is necessary for them to do what they think is responsible. I say to them: If the President fails to lead, you must do so.

We must continue to fight and never give up and never go away for the sake of the survivors and families who said from this Gallery when we failed to act in the wake of Sandy Hook: Shame. Shame on us, in fact, if we fail to act. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I join with many of my colleagues to make a pretty simple request, and that is, the issue of gun violence in this country requires us to take action.

The Senate needs to do what it has historically been in place to do. The President of the Senate is in his first term, and I am in my third term. The U.S. Senate is the place in which we debate and act on issues that matter. It is a collaborative body in the world—at least that is what I thought I was running for.

It is time for Leader MCCONNELL to bring up gun safety legislation—well...
past time to bring up gun safety legislation—and for us to act and do something about gun violence in this county.

Yes, we hope the President will lead, will provide that leadership that we hear about every one of these mass shootings—that the President is engaged. We need his leadership to bring us together on sensible gun safety legislation, but if not, we still have the responsibility here in this body to act. We call upon Leader McConnell to bring forward sensible gun safety legislation.

The United States is an outlier on gun violence. When you compare the amount of gun violence in the United States to that in the other developed countries of the world, in every category, multiply it 10, 20, or 30—more likely for gun violence episodes here in the United States than other developed countries of the world.

We have far more private ownership of guns in this country than other industrial nations of the world. We have far more mass killings. We have far more gun-related suicides, and the list goes on and on and on.

So we need to take action. This is one area where we don’t want to be the outlier. We want safe communities, and inaction is not an answer.

Yes, there are many things we could do. Look, the people of Maryland and the people throughout this country have been victims of this gun violence. In my own State of Maryland, we had a mass shooting in June of last year at the Capital Gazette—outrageous. People trying to do their jobs were killed. We have had, of course, school shootings. It is time for this Congress to take steps to reduce this risk. Inaction is not an option.

What should we do? As my previous colleague said, there are a lot of things we should be doing. We should take a look at universal background checks. We have to go through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. As my colleague has said, it takes a matter of seconds. You can get cleared or not cleared, and it works. Three million guns have been denied a transfer as a result of this check, but there are loopholes in it because of the way commerce is handled today. It doesn’t cover private sales. Internet sales weren’t even available back when we passed those loopholes, and it will save lives. States that have closed these loopholes have a lower amount of gun violence than those States that have not.

We need a national answer to this. A person can go into Virginia or West Virginia where the laws are different. We need one Federal law to deal with closing this loophole.

Today and every day in this country 100 people are killed through gun violence. We can’t wait. We have to act. That is what this body is best at.

So I encourage President Trump to lead on this issue. I know he had some meetings this week. I encourage our leader to allow this body to take up the universal background check bill that passed the House of Representatives by a strong bipartisan vote. Let us get that done. Let us tell the people of this country that we will not be silent and we will not be inactive in regard to the amount of gun violence in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in discussing our country’s horrific gun violence epidemic. I have risen to speak of this problem many times over the years, and to be honest it is exasperating to have to do it over and over again.

El Paso, Dayton, Gilroy, Odessa, Midland, Brownsville in New York—the list goes on and on—city after city, community after community, devastated by gun violence. We witness these tragedies. We watch heart-breaking and nightmarish footage on our televisions. We offer our thoughts and prayers. We have heavy hearts, deep disappointment and horror, and still nothing. The Senate has still not passed any meaningful legislation to address this problem.

So here we are once again in this Chamber. Democrats are speaking out on behalf of the American people, on behalf of the citizens who are protesting and demanding action, and on behalf of our constituents who call and write and tweet to us every single day for commonsense legislation to help end this gun violence that plagues our communities.

We aren’t just speaking out on behalf of Democrats because gun violence doesn’t ask what political party you support. It touches the lives of everyone in this country. The majority of the American people—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans—all want action. They want their schools to be safe. They want a place to go and worship and be safe. They want to go and buy their back-to-school supplies and be safe.

Let’s be really clear about the root of this inaction. It is greed. It is corruption. It is the rot at the heart of Washington. The NRA is no different. The NRA cares more about gun sales than they do about the country. They care more about the gun manufacturers than they do our communities. Too many of my colleagues just don’t have the guts to stand up to the NRA.

There are three effective solutions sitting right in front of us, all of which are bipartisan, all of which have been voted on before, getting lots of bipartisan support. I reject the false arguments that because these commonsense proposals may not stop every single instance of gun violence that it is not worth doing them. We should do these. It makes no sense to stop doing the commonsense things just because it doesn’t stop every gun crime because the truth is, it is time to do something.

We can and should ban assault weapons and large magazines. No civilian needs access to weapons of war. Those weapons are designed solely to kill large numbers of people very quickly, in minutes and seconds, and our military train heavily to be able to use those weapons well.

We can and should pass my legislation to criminalize gun trafficking. It will help slow the tide of illegal guns into cities like New York and Chicago and across the country where guns that are illegal are sold directly out of the back of a truck to a gang member or a criminal. It is one of the things that law enforcement keeps asking us to do and have been asking for a decade.

We can and should pass the red flag laws that are designed to make sure people who are not entitled to have firearms because law enforcement keeps asking us to do and have been asking for a decade.

We can and should pass my legislation to require private sales to be registered. We are trying to close this loophole. That is one Federal law that is not covered by any State law. Private sales don’t ask what political party you belong to. It’s not a Republican or a Democrat. It is the truth is, it is time to do something.

We can and should pass the legislation that is already passed by the House. That legislation is supported by the vast majority of the American people.

Today, we call upon Leader McConnell to bring this legislation to the Floor of the Senate. We call upon Leader McConnell to stop the filibuster and bring us together on sensible gun safety legislation. We call upon Leader McConnell to allow this body to take up the universal background check bill that has already passed our House, but it is not even being considered right now for a vote in the Senate.

So it is really on Senator McConnell right now. It is on him. It is his decision whether to protect our communities or not—to just protect our kids.

As a mom, when there was a shooting less than a mile from Theo and Henry's...
school, all I could think about was getting there as fast as I possibly could just to make sure my child was safe. That is the fear every parent in America has today. We shouldn’t accept living in an America where we have to worry that our kids aren’t safe in school. We can’t afford to go to a shelter-in-place drills instead of mathematically drills. We shouldn’t accept that world. We shouldn’t accept a world where you can’t be at Bible study with your friends. We shouldn’t accept a world where you can’t go to a concert or go to a movie and know that you are safe, but that is the world we are living in.

The truth about all of this is, right now at this moment, we have Americans who are fueled by hate hunting down other people with weapons of war. That has to change.

We do have the will to do this. Congress can show courage. Congress can do the right thing, so why not do it now. We have the American people are begging us to just have an ounce of strength in our spines, just an ounce of courage to stand up to special interests, to greed and corruption and lies that distort this debate.

We are stronger than this. We are better than this. Let’s protect our kids.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the same issue my colleague from New York just spoke to, and I know others have preceded her on the floor. I am grateful to be a part of this discussion today.

What I could do—but I know I don’t have to because it is so well known now—is go through the three or four most recent mass shootings which are the ones that get most attention, but I don’t have to do that because we know so well what happened just in the last number of weeks.

One way to remember them, of course, is by the names of the communities: El Paso, Dayton, Midland, Odessa—names like that where everywhere in the country knows exactly what we are talking about because of what happened there. What we don’t talk about enough, of course, are the places where there is daily gun violence and horror and tragedy and death and grievous injury because it doesn’t get the same attention.

Tragically, another way to go through a list of tragedies that are connected to this awful epidemic of gun violence—this uniquely American problem of gun violence—is to use numbers. These numbers are now emblazoned on the communities that were so tragically destroyed, in large measure, by these events. In El Paso it was 22, in Dayton it was 9, and in Midland and Odessa 26. So doing the math, that is 38. That is the number of people killed in just three places. Of course, there are a lot of other deaths between those tragic events which aren’t getting the same attention. That is another way to measure—38 killed between August 3 and August 31. Another number is the number of injured. I think the number now is just about 76, just in those three tragedies. So there were 38 killed and 76 injured in those three American communities.

One of the most disturbing realities after the fact is what happened in Dayton in just such a short timeframe. I know that timeframe. We could probably find similar stories as well, but we know that in about 22 seconds in Dayton, 9 people were killed and 27 were injured. Law enforcement, the folks we often call the good guys—good guys not just with guns but good guys with a lot of training and a heroic willingness and heroic commitment to get to a place of danger to try to apprehend a criminal and to try to save people. In Dayton, law enforcement officials got there faster than Superman could get there, and it wasn’t fast enough. Though seconds 9 were gone and 27 were injured.

We know that in Midland and Odessa, TX, the authorities reported that the gunman was prohibited from purchasing a firearm at one point, but he then purchased a background check bill that is rigorous enough to stop the guy in Texas who brought such horror to that community, including, as one of the wounded, a 17-month-old child.

We also know that through the month of August, in that same time period I mentioned, the 3rd to the 31st—but if you include every day of that month, the United States has experienced 38 mass shootings. So there were 38 times when four or more people were killed or injured which is the definition of a mass shooting.

When I think about it in terms of the scale of it—and I don’t think there is anyone who would disagree with this—this is a public health epidemic, and it is plaguing our cities and our communities every single day. What we are talking about, in terms of the perpetrators of this violence, they are not just criminals, they are domestic terrorists, and we should call them that. That is why we need to remember their names or, frankly, even speak their names, but we should remember what they are: domestic terrorists who are, frankly, in terms of the whole scale of the problem, causing more problems in America than any other terrorists are causing. These domestic terrorists are using high-powered, military-style assault weapons to kill our children and to kill our families.

We know that last October, the most deadly active violence against the Jewish community in American history occurred at the Tree of Life synagogue in the city of Pittsburgh. Eleven were killed there and six were injured, including four of the six being law enforcement officers who, again, got there very quickly—maybe not in seconds but in minutes. Of course, getting there that fast, with all of their training, all of their courage, and all of their commitment through even though because even though they got there in just minutes, that wasn’t fast enough because of the nature of the weapon and because of the assailant.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the same issue my colleague from Pennsylvania just spoke to, and I know others have preceded her on the floor. I am grateful to be a part of this discussion today.

What I could do—but I know I don’t have to because it is so well known now—is go through the three or four most recent mass shootings which are the ones that get most attention, but I don’t have to do that because we know so well what happened just in the last number of weeks.

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became law and 25 years from now, one mass shooting was prevented, it would be worth every minute of that effort and every degree of energy expended in furtherance of passing that legislation. We have been talking about this for a long time just in the recent past. We now know that since the House passed H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019.

As I referred to earlier, in the Odessa-Midland shooting, we know that our Nation now needs a national background checks bill in order to make all Americans safer from the horrors of gun violence.

Reports indicate that in 2018 alone, 1.2 million firearm classified ads were posted on armslist.com that did not require a background check before purchase. This is a big loophole that helps feed an illegal underground gun market in cities and communities across our country. If implemented, the universal background checks bill known as H.R. 8 would close this loophole, requiring background checks for all firearm sales between private parties. We also know that since 1994, background checks have prevented 3.5 million gun sales to dangerous criminals and others prohibited from owning a gun.

I have to ask again, are we to surrender to this problem? I don’t think so. I think most Americans don’t want to surrender to it. What they want is for us to take action. They are a little bit tired of just speeches and debate. They may want a little more debate, but they want votes. They want us to be debating and voting several times at least, if not more so.

This is a grave, difficult challenge to confront, but the commitment to confronting it is a mission that I think is worthy of a great country. I ask Majority Leader MC CON NELL to give the Senate the opportunity to debate and vote on a meaningful universal background checks bill, H.R. 8. And I am sure there will be other versions of that in the debate, and that is fine. We should debate all of them and vote on all of them and debate and vote on an extreme risk protection bill.

I would argue we should do more than that. We should have a series of commonsense gun measures to be debated and voted on, even if we are likely to know the outcome, because the American people expect that this uniquely American problem stays the scale of it worthy of that debate and worthy of those votes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MC CON NELL). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. K AINE. Mr. President, I also rise to talk about gun violence. I express my appreciation for our Republican colleagues. Those of us on this side of the aisle feel very strongly about this issue. I understand we have gone a little bit 8,000 rounds for the Virginia Beach shooting, that had the magazines been smaller, they could have stopped the carnage earlier. There may have been those injured or killed, but it would have been less of a toll.

I want to point this out before moving to the next issue. As a society, we tolerate high-capacity magazines. Many in this Chamber are hunters. Many in this Chamber are familiar with hunting laws. In Virginia, as in most States, there are rules that have been on the books for years. If you hunt a deer in Virginia, we limit the amount of rounds you can have in a rifle or shotgun. We put a limit, and that limit has been accepted for decades. Why do we limit the size of magazines in hunting animals? I believe because it is a fair and sportsmanlike. It wouldn’t be humane to allow an animal to be hunted with a magazine of near-unlimited capacity. If it is not humane to hunt an animal with a massive magazine, then why allow near-unlimited magazines to be used to hunt human beings? This is a rule we accept, and we should accept it for weapons designed to hurt humans and not to protect.

The second tragedy in Virginia occurred when I was Governor a number of years ago—the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech. I won’t go into it because I will segue when I talk about a hero, but the shooting at Virginia Tech happened because of a weakness in the background check system. The individual, the young man, Seung-Hui Cho, who killed 32 people was prohibited from having a weapon because he had been adjudicated mentally ill and dangerous, but weaknesses in the background checks system enabled him to get a weapon anyway. We learned a powerful and painful lesson that day, which is that if your background check system has loopholes and gaps, disasters will result.

So I join with my colleagues who say H.R. 8—that has come from the House and is a comprehensive background check system bill that keeps weapons out of the hands of the dangerous, but they want votes. They want us to surrender to it. What they want is something we should absolutely pass.

Last, let me tell you about an American hero. I have told this story on the floor before but not for a number of years. I want to tell this story because I think everybody should know this individual’s name. The name of the hero I want to describe is a man named Liviu Librescu.

Liviu Librescu was one of the 32 people who were killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007. Let me tell you about him. He was born in Romania—and he was Jewish—during the Holocaust. When Germany occupied Romania and began to take over the country, Jews were discriminated against and punished. Liviu Librescu was then a young child. His family was sent to concentration camps, and many of them perished just because they were Jewish. Liviu, as a young child, was hidden by relatives and friends and miraculously managed to survive the Nazi campaign of anti-Semitism against Jews. Many Jews left Romania because they felt their neighbors and friends didn’t protect them. Liviu Librescu decided to stay. “I am a Romanian and an American, and I want to stay. I want to make my country a peaceful place where Jews can live in peace with their fellow men and women.” He ran into a second problem. He went to the university. He was a talented scientist and engineer. But then the Soviet Union moved in and essentially occupied Romania. They punished him because he was Jewish and because he wouldn’t join the Communist Party. He was a world-renowned engineer published in journals and then prohibited his right to publish. Over the years, the
Soviet-dominated Government of Romania took away virtually every right he had.

He started to try to figure out a way to immigrate to Israel. In the early 1970s, at a time when some Eastern European Jews were allowed to immigrate to Israel, Liviu Librescu方言 had escaped Soviet-dominated communism after having survived the Holocaust and moved to Israel. It was his dream.

Liviu Librescu was teaching at the Technion, one of the premier scientific engineering institutions in the world. He got an offer after a few years to come to be a visiting professor in Blacksburg, VA, at Virginia Tech for 1 year. He came in 1958. This Romanian Jew, professor at an Israeli technical university, came to Blacksburg, VA, in the mountains of Appalachia, for 1 year, and he fell in love with Blacksburg. He stayed in Blacksburg, at Virginia Tech, for the rest of his career.

On April 16, 2007, Liviu Librescu—now 22 years in Blacksburg—was teaching an engineering class in one of the two buildings that were the subject of the attack by the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho. On the morning of April 16, 2007, he hated referees and graduation in the class. When he heard shooting start in the classroom, he instinctively knew he should protect his students. Liviu Librescu was no young man; he was 70 years old, this Holocaust survivor. He stood in front of the classroom door on the second floor of this building and told the students: You have to jump out the window. I am going to do everything I can to protect your life. Jump out the window.

He stood there front of the classroom door and absorbed bullet after bullet. Every student of Liviu Librescu’s was able to escape from that building, save one. There was one student who couldn’t get out in time and the building, fire, and then Librescu was killed, and one student in his class was killed, but he saved the lives of all of these other young people.

April 16, 2007, was a day that was a very special day in Liviu Librescu’s life. Most in the classroom wouldn’t have known it. That day was Yom HaShoah, which is a day that occurs every year on the Hebrew calendar and is a day that is celebrated and commemorated in Israel. It is a day to commemorate, remember, and never forget the Holocaust. That is what Yom HaShoah was. Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, knew what that day was. He knew what it meant. He made a choice.

The commemoration of the Holocaust is not just about remembering the violent perpetrators and is not just about remembering the victims; it is also about remembering that there wouldn’t have been millions of victims had there not been so many bystanders.

The murder of Liviu Librescu is about. It is about victims, perpetrators, and also about bystanders in that the Holocaust would never have happened had there not been so many bystanders. What Liviu Librescu decided to do that day was not to be a bystander. As violence was occurring around him, he decided: I will not be a bystander. I will try to take an action to save someone’s life.

The Holocaust survivor, knew what that day was. That day was Yom HaShoah, Yom HaShoah was. Liviu Librescu survived the Holocaust. Think about it. He survived the Soviet takeover of his country. Then he came to this Nation and loved it, but he could not survive the carnage of American gun violence. He did, at last, decide he wouldn’t be a bystander.

That is what we are called to do in the Senate of the United States—not to be bystanders. We do not have to demonstrate the courage of a Liviu Librescu and place our bodies in front of a classroom door and absorb bullet after bullet to save somebody else’s life. I don’t think I would have the courage to do that, I don’t know how many of us would have. We are not called to be a bystander in that magnitude, but I do think we are called to make some sacrifices, and I do think we are called not to be bystanders.

If we are going to be true to that calling, we have to be willing to take up and we have to be prepared to be aware of the fact that we are blessed just as the State of Israel is blessed—despite all of that—with a thriving economy. They live with that danger every day, and they find a way to get through it. Let us never let our guard down or drop our defenses here. Our freedom and our liberty depend upon it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as my friend from Indiana and others have pointed out today, this is a day that Americans remember as a day of unique tragedy. Earlier today, on the Senate floor, we had a moment of silence as a reminder of the human cost of that day.

The Senate floor was full of Members who paused to think about what had happened on that day.

I think almost every American alive knows what happened that morning. Just like this morning, it was beautiful and clear. If you were too young to remember where you were that morning—and there is a real likelihood that your parents told you where you were—it was a seminal moment. It changed how we look at so many things in our country. We reflect today where we were and the changes that occurred after that.

I was working on the other side of the building as a Member of the House, and I shared with the Capitol Police today my appreciation for what they do every day. On this day every year, I remember being one of the last people to leave this building. The Capitol Police were working hard to get people out as there was a sense that a plane was coming here and was going to either hit the White House or the Capitol. I remember walking out the door—I really was among the last to leave the building that day—and I thought it could happen in 1941. I just didn’t think it could happen in 2001. It can happen again because that is the world we live in.

When I came here as a U.S. Senator, I always knew the most important thing this body should do was foster the defense and the security of this country. When you see it has slipped so precariously over the last few years—and thank goodness that we have built it up to the level that makes sense—it is because we always need to be prepared. If we are going to truly honor all of the lives that were lost in 1941 and 2001 and will be inevitably lost down the road, we need to be strong; we need to be prepared to be aware of the fact that we are blessed just as the State of Israel is blessed—despite all of that—with a thriving economy. They live with that danger every day, and they find a way to get through it. Let us never let our guard down or drop our defenses here. Our freedom and our liberty depend upon it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.
country and it were to go back to the Taliban. Would it become a haven again? Almost certainly, I think it would.

We really need to think about a number of things. One is that so many people died that day that protecting us is not just our job. It is a job we share with the terrorists themselves. They are working here to spot overseas. They are fighting terrorist as safe as we can be and that our free-country and it were to go back to the September 11, 2019 way, and we resolve today that we will con-
tinue to be vigilant against attack and unafraid of defending who we are.

Senator CAPITO and I were just at the border last week. Some of the things we talked about were not only the drugs coming over the border but the other things coming over the border that are designed to harm us—who we are and how we live.

In St. Louis, MO, and Arnold, MO, we have the second biggest installation of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. We are looking at the information that is out there. It looks all over the world to see if there is activity in places in which there wouldn’t be activity. Yet, if there were activity, it would likely be activity that would be design of others or others for the world. We need to understand that.

We also need to understand that in the society in which we live, there is never perfect security and perfect freedom at the same time. We have worked really hard not to allow ourselves to lose the freedoms we cherish in return for the security we would like to have.

We also need to remember those people who responded. As for the first responders who ran toward the tragedy on 9/11, we were able to run away from the tragedy—passing each other—many of those first responders were numbered among the 3,000 Americans who died on that day.

Just last month, the President signed into law the National Urban Search and Rescue Parity Act, which allows Federal employees to be active participants on urban search and rescue teams whether the disaster is natural or man-made.

The second thing we need to keep in mind is how important it is to honor and care for the victims and heroes among us—those who ran toward the tragedy, those they left behind, and the people who still suffer today because of what happened to them on that day. As likely as not, those people to benefit from the Victim Compensation Fund are the people who stayed behind to help others or who rushed forward to help others.

We want to become afraid to be the great, diverse society we have become; we don’t want to become a society in which we allow the terrorists to win by taking our freedoms away. Yet this is an important time for us to think of those freedoms, of those who defend those freedoms, of those who rush to the scenes of danger when we have danger, and of those who try to do everything they can to minimize that. Yet, if there were activity, we resolve today that we will continue to be vigil-ant against attack and unafraid of defending who we are.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote series begin following the remarks of Senators Daines, Collins, Lankford, and Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, 18 years ago, on a bright, clear-skied, September morning, without warning, our Nation was attacked. Many of us probably remember where we were on that horrible day.

I had that morning off. I was at home with my nearly 2-year-old daughter. We didn’t have the TV on. We had a couple of gentlemen at the house. I was getting brand new furnace on that day. What would normally be a couple of-hours-long installation turned into an all-day event as those men would take time off from installing our new furnace to run into the other room so we could see what was going on on the television.

I had two phone calls that morning. The first was early. It was from a neighbor.

She said: Joni, do you have the TV on?

I said: Well, no, Wanda. I don’t. What’s going on?

She said: Joni, you just need to turn the TV on.

So I ran inside and I saw the horrible events unfolding right in front of us.

The second phone call I got was from my Iowa Army National Guard unit: Captain ERNST, we are doing a 100-percent accountability check. We need you to stay by the phone all day so we know how we can get ahold of you—100 percent accountability.

It was an experience many of us had never felt before—the terrifying shock of knowing that the country we love and our fellow Americans were under attack.

Our adversaries sought to tear us apart by their cowardly acts, but, instead, they brought us together as Americans, for in those terrible moments, we also saw the very, very best of our country—the firefighters, the police officers, the first responders, and the ordinary citizens who courageously put their lives on the line to save countless others.

On that day, as individuals and as a Nation, we came together in a unique way, and we also made a pledge to never forget—to never forget the nearly 3,000 victims and the families they left behind, to never forget the heroism of both our first responders and those everyday men and women who selflessly acted to save lives, and to never forget the importance of defending our homeland and the great democratic principles that we stand for.

It is a pledge we must all take very seriously, and it is why I have organized this event for my colleagues to come to the floor today and to share their memories and thoughts on today, this eighteenth anniversary of the Sep-
ember 11th terrorist attacks.

It is why I work so hard to make sure our Armed Forces have the technology, support, and resources they need to defend our Nation from threats both here at home and abroad.

It is why I cosponsored and helped to finally get signed into law a permanent reauthorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, keeping our Nation’s promise to support the first responders who continue to sacrifice their health and lives from their work in the post-9/11 recovery efforts.

And it is why we should never ever take our Nation and our freedoms for granted.

It is one—just one—of the millions of Americans keeping that promise to never forget. In fact, today, back home in Iowa, there are countless folks who are honoring that vow in their own thoughtful way.

I use today’s anniversary as a day of service, performing acts of kindness throughout Iowa. Others come together with their communities to honor and remember those who were lost.

It is really wonderful to see all of the ways that folks are doing that, from walking in the 9/11 March to the Capitol in Des Moines to visiting the 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit, currently at the Clay County Fair, to participating in the annual 9/11 Moment of Silence Motorcycle Ride in Mason City.

For some of our fellow Iowans, today will be spent remembering loved ones lost in the attack—folks like Newton’s Jean Cleere’s husband, Jim, a loving, good-natured, good-humored, and God-fearing giant of a man, who never came home from a fateful business trip to the World Trade Center 18 years ago.

For nearly two decades now, Jean has been on a crusade to keep Jim’s memory and the legacy he left behind, alive. Jean has been fundraising for Newton’s very own 9/11 memorial. She speaks to local students, educating them about the events of that day 18 years ago, and she has given her testimony all over Iowa. For folks in Iowa, they have probably seen her driving across the State. She has a pretty special license plate, which reads “NVR4GT”—never forget.

Today and every day, Iowans are keeping that sacred promise. We will always remember Jim Cleere and the nearly 3,000 others who lost their lives that tragic day. We will always honor the heroes who selflessly sacrificed and saved countless lives. We will always
rise up to defend our Nation and its citizens. We will never forget. That is our sacred promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, Americans witnessed what evil looks like. Eighteen years ago today, Americans witnessed the loss of innocent life. Eighteen years ago today, Americans witnessed acts of cowardice.

Today, Montanans and Americans across our country are taking time to reflect upon the horrific acts of 9/11. Today, we take time to remember the thousands of lives lost on that horrible day. We remember the daughters who lost mothers, the sons who lost fathers, and the loved ones and friends and the communities that were broken by these events.

I know I speak for most of us when I say that we remember that day like it was yesterday. That fateful morning, I was in Bozeman, MT. I typically like to get an earlier start at work. We are 2 hours behind the time zone of the west coast. So it was early in the morning.

My wife Cindy called me. I was at my desk. I was working for a cloud-computing software company, just starting the day, and Cindy called me. She said: There is news. There has been a plane that hit one of the World Trade Center towers.

I think many of us at that time thought it was maybe a small, private plane, perhaps a UPS kind of a strange bit of news out coming that morning. Then, as the minutes went by, we started finding out what was really going on, that it wasn’t a small plane. It wasn’t an accident. It was a 767 loaded with fuel because it was attempting to make a journey across our country from Boston out to the west coast.

The images of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers is one I will never forget, and it is one that will never stop hurting. I remember that after it was confirmed that it was a commercial aircraft, very quickly the speculation began that this was a premeditated terror attack. In moments like that, you want to be with your loved ones. I quietly closed the door to my office, and I drove home to be with my wife and to be with family as we watched the rest of the horrible day unfold. 2,977 innocent Americans lost their lives, and 2,977 innocent Americans lost their home that day.

I think it is important to think about every single human life that was lost and the pain of the families who remember that day today when they lost their loved ones. That pain is very real yet again today.

This was a slaughter of our fellow Americans that shook our Nation to its very core. Yet, in the face of extreme adversity, we are a nation that did come together and we carried on. I think about those moments when our churches and cathedrals were filled with Americans in prayer, reflecting upon what had happened.

Today, we honor and remember the almost 3,000 people who died that September morning. We remember the survivors, those first responders, the firefighters, and the friends and families of those we lost. While we take the time to remember today, we also reflect on who we are as a nation. As Americans, we are strong and resilient. After the 9/11 attacks, we responded with strength and we strengthened the homeland.

We are most grateful to those who served and to those who are serving today in our Armed Forces. Just recently, last December, I flew to Afghanistan. In fact, we carried 50 pounds of Montana beef jerky to deliver to the 495th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of the Montana Army National Guard, who are deployed over in Afghanistan protecting us. As I received the briefs that day, I was reminded yet again that this war that we have against terrorism exists this very moment, and I can tell you this because of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, in intelligence, and in law enforcement across our Nation. It is because of them that we are able to stand here today without another terror attack like we saw on 9/11.

When I received the brief in Afghanistan in December, I was reminded again of the porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan and that there are plots being created and attempts to hit the homeland again. There are many brave men and women there, many圣officers.

I spent time with the four-star there Scott Miller, who has had a career in Special Forces. He is overseeing the operations there. I am grateful that they continue to remain vigilant in this fight against global terrorism.

America’s enemies want us to be afraid, but the thing is, here in America, we don’t give up. When America is strong, so are our allies and so is the free world. We must remain vigilant to never forget the lessons that Reagen doctrine of peace through strength.

The world will never forget what happened on this day 18 years ago, and despite the political differences and divisions that we have across our country and this city, we must always remember that we are all in this together, and Americans are strong when we are united.

There is no force of evil or terror that will ever overcome the will and the determination of a free and united people.

We ask that God continue to bless our fighting men and women, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTIN. Mr. President, September 11 is a solemn anniversary. Eighteen years later, we still remember the events of that terrible day. Nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives in the attacks on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93, but every American experienced the pain of loss that day.

Just as we mourn the innocent lives lost, we also remember the heroism of our first responders who ran toward danger and death to help their fellow Americans.

Out of the ashes of that terrible tragedy arose a strength and unity that the whole world came to admire. September 11 altered the course of our Nation’s history in a blaze of fire and smoke, and for so many Americans, it altered the course of our lives.

Our fighting men and women deployed overseas just weeks later and remain in the fight today. So many Americans joined them, enlisting to defend our Nation. Young kids who witnessed firefighters rushing into the burning towers grew up and themselves joined units with old-fashioned names like “engine” and “ladder.” A generation of intelligence officers dedicated themselves to preventing another 9/11, and the families that have lost a loved one.

Our lives continue to be altered because the consequences of September 11 are still with us. The attacks of 18 years ago continue to claim new victims, as first responders and others suffer from injuries and illnesses that trace back to that morning.

The al-Qaida terrorists who attacked us are bloodied, yet undefeated, while the Taliban terrorists who gave safe haven threaten to regain control in Afghanistan.

Most tragic of all, our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines continue to fall in the line of duty and defense of our country.

Just last week, Army SFC Ellis A. Barreto Ortiz was killed on the battlefield in Afghanistan. September 11 is his story, too—the story of valor and sacrifice.

So the story of September 11 continues to unfold many years after the fact. May it also be the memory of everything our resolve to continue fighting the enemies of freedom, and may we never ever forget.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, in my office in Oklahoma City, a fellow staff member poked her head into the office and said to me: There is a freak accident that happened in Manhattan. A plane flew into the World Trade Center.

She went down the hallway and pulled in a rolling cart—the younger generation will have no idea what that is—but a rolling cart with a TV on top of it, and we plugged it in and watched it. As the second plane flew in, both of us stood there silently, thinking: That is no accident. That is murder on a massive scale and terror like I have never witnessed with my own eyes.

What I didn’t know at that moment is how many thousands of lives would be affected and how much our Nation would be changed. That morning, 18 years ago, seven Oklahomans died, but
our Nation was forever changed. Common terms we think about today like “TSA,” or “terror watch list,” or “Department of Homeland Security,” or “Global Entry,” or “body scanners,” or “Patriot Act”—those didn’t exist on September 10, 2001. They have all come since then. Our Nation learned how to do more security, learn how to engage, and has learned a painful lesson that what people think in an isolated village in a remote country—what they think matters to us because what they may carry out in their own backyard could kill our family members and our fellow Americans.

Almost 3,000 Americans died that day, but since that time period, we have pushed back not against the people of Afghanistan or the people of Iraq, not against Muslims or a faith but against a specific ideology that intensely hates the freedom of America and who intentionally plans to kill Americans they have never met.

We learned to label those who are a nation that day; that we have to not only take it seriously but that we must not wait until they carry out a fight. If they are planning it, if they are preparing it, if they have the capability, we see our enemies actually doing that.

Since that time period, American men and women have taken the fight to people who want to come and kill more Americans, but it has also been at a personal level. We have blood and treasure: 4,432 Americans have died in Iraq; 2,533 Americans have died in Afghanistan. Fifty-one of those are my fellow Oklahomans in Afghanistan; 72 of those are my fellow Oklahomans in Iraq.

Today, I pulled out of my closet a specific tie that I rarely wear. It was a tie given to me by a Gold Star Wife who never ever wanted to be a Gold Star Wife. She just wanted to be the wife of the man whom she intensely loved, who went to Afghanistan to serve his country in the Oklahoma National Guard and died for our freedom. Two years later, she handed me this tie and said: He hated wearing this tie and said: He hated wearing this tie and said: He hated wearing this tie, so I have it in his memory, the force of promise, and the values, what brings us together is a powerful force. Today it is the force of memory, the force of promise, and the force of this tie, and I want to salute my colleagues, particularly my friend from Oklahoma for his moving statement about families in his State touched by this tragedy.

E-CIGARETTES
Mr. President, I would like to change topics for just a moment to another important issue that has risen today and I believe is worthy of comment.

Just a few hours ago, the White House, the President, the First Lady, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration made a historic announcement when it comes to vaping and e-cigarettes.

They just announced today that is significant. They have set out to ban any of these flavors pods that were dangerous to children and couldn’t be proven to be harmless. I thank her for that leadership. I believe that legislation and our constant pressure on this administration came to this moment today where we are stepping forward.

We are making it clear in the United States of America that we know vaping is dangerous. We know that targeted kids are risking their health and their life by continuing to use e-cigarettes and vaping. With this administration today, on a bipartisan basis, we are banning these flavor pods once and for all. We are going to try to move forward.

The last thing I will say is this: I hope the Surgeon General or one of the other leaders in public health in our government will step up now and notify every school principal in America to call an assembly, to gather the parents, and let them know about this danger. There are 5 million kids in this country vaping today. Let’s hope they can stop, and stop soon, before they harm themselves.

I salute the administration for its leadership on this matter. I worked on it for quite a few years. It is a good moment in our history that we are moving together on a bipartisan basis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Cotton). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, earlier today we paused and commemorated those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Eighteen years have passed, but the memory of that day remains as vivid as if it were yesterday. We each have our own recollections of where we were and what we were doing as the horrifying terror attacks on our country began to unfold.

I remember having the television on and watching a report that a plane—
We express our gratitude to those women of our Armed Forces. Nation against terrorism, the men and women of our Armed Forces who rushed to lead others to safety.

By the firefighters, EMS personnel, and the civilians who rushed to the Twin Towers were tumbling down. We rescue those who were in peril even as they were exposed to have caused others to safety, still inspire. They put themselves in imminent danger to save the lives of others.

Later on, years later, we learned that the toxic dust and debris that many of us were exposed to cause serious illnesses. The overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in the Senate in July to permanently reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund ensures that those first responders who risked their lives to save their fellow Americans will always be supported and their illnesses treated.

September 11 was a day of personal tragedy for so many families. It was also an attack on the United States of America and on civilization. We must never forget what was lost and what remains at stake. We must continue our pledge—the pledge we made that horrific day—to do all we can to prevent future attacks.

The fundamental obligation of government is to protect its people. Since September 11, 2001, we have done much to meet that obligation, but more work remains. In the aftermath of those attacks, former Senator from Connecticut Joe Lieberman and I, as the leaders of the Select Intelligence and Security Committee, worked in a bipartisan way with the leaders of the 9/11 Commission and the families of those who were lost to terrorist attacks on that day to pass the most sweeping reforms of our intelligence community since World War II. It is significant that the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 2 and that, of the hundreds of amendments that were considered, not a single one was decided by a party-line vote.

In what seemed like a moment, September 11, 2001, was transformed from a day like any other into one that forever will stand alone. The loss we re vive reminds us of the value of all that we must protect. The heroism reminds us of the unconquerable spirit of the American people. Our achievements remind us that we can meet any challenge. As long as we keep this day of remembrance in our hearts, we shall meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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 Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020 (Reappointment).
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 Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security (New Position).

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security (New Position) be brought to a close?

The clerk will call the roll.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. BOOKER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 0, as follows:

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<td>Booker</td>
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 0. The motion is agreed to.

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 Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Haines nomination?

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Brown
Burr
Capito
Cardin
Cassidy
Collins
Cory Booker
Crapo
Cotton
Cruz
Daines
Daines
Durbin
Enzi
Feinstein
Cortez Masto
Gillibrand
Kay Hagan
Gardner
Motion of Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Alexander
Barrasso
Ben Sasse
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cardin
Cassidy
Collins
Cory Booker
Crapo
Cotton
Cruz
Daines
Durbin
Enzi
Feinstein
Cortez Masto
Gillibrand
Kay Hagan
Gardner

The motion was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination. The legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Grimberg nomination?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander
Baldwin
Barrasso
Ben Sasse
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Brown
Burr
Capito
Kay Hagan
Gardner

The nomination was confirmed.
The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McElroy nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge the Senate to confirm the nomination of Stephanie Gallagher of Maryland to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland. This is a noncontroversial nomination which the Senate should be able to confirm in short order.

Judge Stephanie Gallagher brings tremendous experience to the courtroom as a sitting U.S. magistrate judge in Baltimore, as well as being a former prosecutor, private law firm attorney, and judicial law clerk. Her strong roots in the Maryland legal community, tremendous understanding and respect for the rule of law, and willingness to volunteer her time in service outside the courtroom make her an exceptional nominee. I was pleased to recommend Judge Gallagher’s nomination to President Trump, along with Senator VAN HOLLLEN.

I must note for my colleagues that I originally recommended Judge Gallagher’s nomination to President Obama along with Senator Mikulski, back in 2015, given the impending retirement of Judge William Quarles in 2016. Judge Gallagher’s nomination has actually been favorably recommended by the Judiciary Committee on three separate occasions, in 2015, given the impending retirement of Judge William Quarles in 2016. Most recently, on June 20, 2019, the Judiciary Committee favorably recommended Judge Gallagher to the full Senate for confirmation by a vote of 21–1.

I want to thank Senator VAN HOLLLEN for working with me to ensure we seek out the best attorneys in our State for Federal judicial vacancies, which are lifetime appointments and one of the most important obligations we have as U.S. Senators. We have recommended judicial nominations to the President that have made Marylanders proud of our Federal courts.

Stephanie Gallagher, of Baltimore, MD, has been a U.S. magistrate judge in Baltimore, since April 2011. As a magistrate judge, Judge Gallagher works closely on a daily basis with district court judges, the very position she has been nominated for today. In her current position as a magistrate judge, Judge Gallagher has presided over preliminary conferences, resolved discovery disputes, and prepares reports and recommendations on dispositive motions. With the consent of the parties, Judge Gallagher can take jurisdiction over summary judgment motions, in certain cases, she becomes the presiding judge, making all rulings in the case and overseeing the trial. In this capacity, she has presided over civil bench and jury trials. She has served as the criminal duty judge on a rotating basis with her colleagues, where she presides over preliminary proceedings in felony cases and handles misdemeanor cases, including those occurring at Federal military installations in Maryland.

Previously, Judge Gallagher was a partner and cofounder at Levin & Gallagher LLC, now Levin & Curlett, for 3 years, served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Baltimore for 6 years, and was a litigation associate at Akin Gump in Washington, DC, for 2 years. She practiced in a wide variety of legal issues, including complex civil litigation, employment disputes, constitutional issues, criminal defense, and criminal prosecution.

Judge Gallagher began her legal career as a law clerk for then-Chief Judge J. Frederick Motz of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland from 1997 to 1999. She received her J.D. in 1997 from Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude, and received her B.S. in government from Georgetown University in 1994, graduating magna cum laude.

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has declared this Maryland seat to be one of the nation’s most important positions because it serves the judges who serve on the federal bench, including the Chief Judge. The nominees that the Senate confirms will serve on the bench for 9/11 first responders. We recently
made the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent. This ensures that all those who responded to the terror attacks and their families have peace of mind and first-rate healthcare.

**HEALTHCARE**

Mr. President, I want to turn to the topic of the overall healthcare debate that we are having in this country. For the past several weeks, I have been home in Wyoming, as you have been home in North Dakota, and I listened to the people I am so privileged to represent. They have been privileged to treat as their doctor. Of course we discussed their healthcare. As a doctor, I want to make care better and more affordable.

Folks in Wyoming actually know me first as a doctor, so many of them call me Dr. Barrasso or John as opposed to Senator Barrasso. People back home think of their doctors as members of the family, as friends, neighbors who live down the street, who go to the same church, the kids go to the same schools. The local hospital in Casper is right in the center of town. People don’t want that to change. They want the same people giving them care, but they want it at lower costs.

This is true for the rest of the country. People are rightly concerned. Americans worry that they won’t be able to pay for healthcare. Republicans are listening to these concerns, and we are focused on lowering the out-of-pocket costs for people’s healthcare. That is why we ended the unfair Obamacare tax penalty. We ended that. We recently banned the costly drug price gag clauses so people could know what things actually cost and what the best deal was for them.

Now we are focused on ending something called surprise medical billing. It happens. You get huge medical bills that you don’t expect and you can’t easily pay. We are also moving more measures to lower drug prices that people actually have to pay.

Here is the problem: Democrats are rejecting all of our efforts. They are proposing costly healthcare—to me, schemes. The Washington Post reports that five of the seven Democratic Senators who are Members of this body and who are running for President have backed a one-size-fits-all approach. It is a government-run plan they call Medicare for All. The Washington Post reports that House Democrats also back it. They have actually cosponsored it. They want it to become the law.

The Democrats’ proposal would take away on-the-job health insurance from 180 million working Americans. Let me repeat that. What the Democrats are proposing with their so-called Medicare for All—a one-size-fits-all proposal for healthcare in this country—would take away the healthcare that people get on the job that they earned on the job. There have been private on their insurance that way in America.

The cost of their proposal is $32 trillion—that is “trillion” with a “t.” It is an astronomical amount of money. Of course, they have to pay for that, as Senator Sanders has said, by raising taxes on the middle class.

These Democrats clearly aren’t focused on helping to lower the costs of care. To my opinion, with plans to destroy health insurance, to destroy union workers’ hard-fought insurance benefits, to destroy the current Medicare Program for 60 million seniors, and to destroy the health coverage that people have spent years to get. For what? It is all so that government can have complete control over America’s healthcare system. We can’t afford for that to happen. The Democrats have admitted that their ObamaCare healthcare law has failed. The polling shows that the majority of Americans do not want a one-size-fits-all healthcare plan for them.

Now, remember, when it came to the vote on ObamaCare, congressional Democrats in the House and the Senate promised that the American healthcare law would control costs. They actually named it—I think completely misnamed it—the Affordable Care Act. It was the Unaffordable Care Act. What have we seen? I have seen is that out-of-pocket premiums soared all after the Obama healthcare law was signed. For many Americans, health insurance premiums have doubled since the signing of the Obama healthcare law. Monthly premiums and mortgage payments. This can’t stand. This simply can’t continue. We cannot trust the Democrats to roll the dice again with the healthcare of the American people.

The Republicans are focused on real reforms—reforms that actually lower costs and reforms that protect patients with preexisting conditions. In July, the Senate’s Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions approved a measure to end surprise medical billing and high out-of-network charges. It is the right thing to do for patients and for their families.

The Republicans are also making progress on lowering drug costs. We passed a bill I cosponsored to end the drug price gag rule. As a result, patients can always get the lowest priced drug. We are continuing to work with the President on this and other issues.

Still, to make more progress, we need Democratic support and cooperation. The choice is clear—to work together to lower costs without lowering standards or to follow the Democratic Senators who are running for President and follow the House Democrats who are pushing for a one-size-fits-all, government-run healthcare for America with the loss of choice and the loss of control—all of the concerns that come with a one-size-fits-all, government approach.

It doesn’t seem like they are for lowering costs. It seems they are for raising your taxes and taking away your control and your choice. They are not for improving care. They are for increasing and growing the role of government. Remember, the Democrats want to take away health insurance from 180 million Americans—working Americans—who go to work every day and have earned their health insurance at work.

At the same time, the Democrats who are running for President are promising free healthcare. I was astonished when I heard this from the Democrats. They are promising free healthcare for illegal immigrants. They want to take insurance away from hard-working Americans and give insurance—free—to illegal immigrants.

What kind of proposal is that? Who is being represented with this proposal by these Democratic Senators and other Democrats who are running for President? Who do you think is going to pay for all of this? Why should we pay more to wait longer for worse care?

It is not something Americans want or will tolerate. Instead, let’s give patients the care they want from the doctors they choose and at lower costs.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I also want to take a moment tonight to talk about the importance of there being the continued funding to address our Nation’s opioid crisis. As the Senate Appropriations Committee chair, I look forward to the oversight of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies’ fiscal year 2020 budget. I rise to discuss the urgent need for additional funding to combat the fentanyl, heroin, and opioid crisis.

The substance misuse crisis continues to ravage communities in my home State of New Hampshire and all
across our country. People in New Hampshire are doing vital work to address this crisis and get those who are struggling the support they need to get and stay healthy.

Just last month, I visited Moms in Recovery in Lebanon, New Hampshire, which is an addiction services program through Dartmouth-Hitchcock that is providing comprehensive care to get pregnant and parenting women the services they need to address substance misuse. In Lebanon, NH, Moms in Recovery offers everything from medication-assisted treatment to group therapy, counseling, outpatient therapy, parenting classes, and more. Providers said that what started as a program for 5 women is now serving 60. It has transformed from a program that just served pregnant women to one that is now serving women after they give birth. It works to help them stabilize their lives and to reengage in our workforce and in our communities.

People in my State are implementing innovative approaches to help their friends and neighbors, and Congress needs to give them the support they need to help save lives.

I have been proud to work with Senator S HAHEEN and my colleagues on strategies and treatment programs that will help save lives.

One important next step would be to pass Senator SHAHEEN's Turn the Tide Act, which is legislation I have cosponsored that would invest $63 billion in flexible funding over 10 years, support treatment and prevention efforts, and address workforce challenges in the treatment field. This is the kind of long-term, comprehensive approach we should be taking, and I will continue to join with Senator SHAHEEN to push for this bill.

The fentanyl, heroin, and opioid crisis remains the most pressing public health and public safety challenge facing New Hampshire and many other communities across our country, and the biggest mistake anyone could make is in thinking our efforts to address this crisis are close to being done. Yet nobody in this body should think that as the appropriations process progresses, hardest hit States, including the Granite State, were prioritized.

Last year, we also passed the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which the President signed into law. It included, among many critical priorities, the following: establishing comprehensive opioid recovery centers, expanding access to medication-assisted treatment, and supporting law enforcement in its efforts to curb the shipment of fentanyl through the Postal Service.

Yet nobody in this body should think that our work is anywhere near complete. As the Appropriations Committee considers funding bills for the next fiscal year, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strengthen support for treatment, recovery, prevention, and law enforcement efforts. This includes having worked to secure more than $6 billion in the 2018 budget agreement for governmentwide efforts to combat this crisis and to ensure that as the appropriations process progressed, hardest hit States, including the Granite State, were prioritized.

Earlier this week, I was talking with some of the members of my team, and we were trading stories about where we were on the morning of September 11 and how it affected the way we viewed their place in the world, and their motivations and decisions. Those of us who vividly remember that day still recall an unsettling cascade of emotions. There was shock, confusion, and, finally, dread as we realized we were not, as initially thought, seeing a senseless accident, but that, indeed, we were under attack.

As the morning wore on, dread really gave way to fear and panic and, finally, to absolute terror that our loved ones who were in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania and who were in the airplane were gone. There were, among those who were experiencing firsthand what was happening, it was the perfect storm of conflicting media reports and jammed cell service that made it almost impossible to reach out to people and to ask that question, "Are you OK?" and to hear their voices.

Yet, by the time terrorists struck that second tower, I think a lot of people really had begun to understand what was happening. Later, they learned that a half a world away, a group of men who referred to themselves as al Qaeda had made their mission to murder Americans. They were doing it to prove a point. Yes, it did leave a mark on this Nation and on our citizens. Younger Americans’ memories of that day really are fuzzier, but almost all of us remember what we now describe as a sense of national unity rising up in the days following the attacks.

Yet, by the time terrorists struck that second tower, I think a lot of people really had begun to understand what was happening. Later, they learned that a half a world away, a group of men who referred to themselves as al Qaeda had made their mission to murder Americans. They were doing it to prove a point. Yes, it did leave a mark on this Nation and on our citizens. Younger Americans’ memories of that day really are fuzzier, but almost all of us remember what we now describe as a sense of national unity rising up in the days following the attacks.

They remember that every house on the street flew an American flag and that every adult they knew stood in a line to give blood. They saw small town first responders load up those firetrucks and emergency vehicles and head to New York.

At the time, they really didn’t understand geopolitics, but they did understand fear and suffering because they saw that fear in the eyes of their teachers and in the eyes of the adults who surrounded them; but they also saw the shift that the attacks and the aftermath caused in our country. For a time, partisanship and bitterness was washed away. What you saw was unity, and waving flags.

Now, almost 20 years later, memories are growing fuzzy. Sometimes they are nonexistent. Calls for unity have been replaced by heated debate. Too often, the loudest voices look back at 9/11 as an event in the collective memory, and they don’t look at it as an occurrence that changed lives and lifestyles forever.

They consider in passing the remnants of the attacks in debates over foreign policy and defense spending, but ignore why we remain so focused on national security. This is why every year, without exception, we remind ourselves that this kind of hatred it takes to bring an entire country to its knees gives no quarter.

We acknowledge the actions of 19 terrorists whose twisted beliefs led to the violent murder of nearly 3,000 innocent people, because even though the panic of that awful morning has faded, our enemies’ desire to make an example of us has not. But America, with all her
imperfections, still thrives in utter defiance of hatred, divisiveness, and destruction.

Today, we remember those who died, and we keep their memory as a beacon against the void that allowed violence and terror.

We remember the heroes who defied fear and reason and ran toward the flames, putting love of country and countrymen above all else.

And we remember and remind ourselves that by simply standing back up, America is the world’s best example of what it looks like when love, hope, and valor triumph over the forces of darkness.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action for the nominations confirmed during today’s session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, the Senate vote on the Bowman and Nordquist nominations and that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; further, that following disposition of the Nordquist nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Peddo nomination; finally, that at 1:45 p.m. the Senate vote on the Peddo nomination and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the communications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–432.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

HON. JAMES E. RISCH, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirement of section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–49 concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer Pursuant to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost $6.5 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

H.R. 19–49
NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF LETTER OF OFFER PURSUANT TO SECTION 36(b)(1) OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT, AS AMENDED

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $4.1 billion. Other $2.4 billion. Total $6.5 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:


Engines: Thirty-three (33) Pratt & Whitney F–135 Engines.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):


(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—F–35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Poland has requested to buy thirty-two (32) F–35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft and thirty-three (33) Pratt & Whitney F–135 Engines.

This proposed sale of F–35s will provide Poland with augment his air and air–ground self-defense capability. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key allies in the region with modern systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key allies in the region with modern systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

The prime contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas; and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines in East Hartford, Connecticut. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. However, the purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips to Poland involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews/support, program management and training and reprogramming centers.

The proposed sale of this aircraft, systems and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas; and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines in East Hartford, Connecticut. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. However, the purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips to Poland involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews/support, program management and training and reprogramming centers.

The proposed sale of this aircraft, systems and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

7. The Radar Altimeter functionality is a module provided in the CNI system rack 3A and uses separate transmit and receive antennae. It measures and reports altitude, and uses separate transmit and receive antennae. Control data is transferred over to a configurable avionics interface card, which translates the information to the F-35 aircraft computers. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

8. The Instrument Landing System (ILS) measures and reports altitude, ground speed, and uses separate transmit and receive antennae. It measures and reports altitude, ground speed, and uses separate transmit and receive antennae. Control data is transferred over to a configurable avionics interface card, which translates the information to the F-35 aircraft computers. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

9. The Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) functionality provides operational modes to identify ground station and to provide navigation to, from, and along the runway. It is unique to the F-35 aircraft but is standard on most U.S. Air Force aircraft. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.
9. The Tactical Data Link is a secure broadcast Tactical Digital Information Link (TADIL) used for real-time voice/data exchange for command and control, relative navigation, and identification and tracking of friendly and enemy forces. It provides Link-16 type capabilities. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. Sensitive elements include: mission planning, mission display, system reprogramming, data debrief, etc.

4. The Pilot Life Support System is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: mission planning, mission display, system reprogramming, data debrief, etc.

5. The F-35 Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS) is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: mission planning, mission display, system reprogramming, data debrief, etc.

3. The F-35 Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS) is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: mission planning, mission display, system reprogramming, data debrief, etc.

2. The JSF Reprogramming Center is classified SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. This hardware/software facility is located in the United States and provides F-35 customers with a means to update JSF electronic components. Sensitive elements include: EW software databases and tools to modify these databases.

1. Publications: Manuals are considered SECRET as they contain information on aircraft/system performance and inherent vulnerabilities.
and scenic rivers are managed to “protect and enhance the values,” 16 USC 1281(a), for which the wild and scenic river was established.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act generally defines “outstandingly remarkable values” as “ecological, biological or botanical, paleontological, hydrological, traditional cultural uses, water quality, and scientific values.” Some of the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers in Oregon Wildlands Act were never evaluated by the agency. Therefore, as part of the fact-gathering by my staff based on State and Federal agency data and research and public input during development of the legislation, ORVs were determined for the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers. The table I am including with my statement lists both the general and specific ORVs identified during consideration of the legislation. It is to protect and enhance these values for which I, as the chief sponsor of the Oregon Wilderness Act, included the various wild and scenic rivers in the legislation that ultimately included in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This table includes both the outstandingly remarkable values that BLM found for the stream segments, as well as additional values.

The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act reflects the Nation’s commitment to protect America’s rivers, streams, and special places. I am pleased the legislation permanently protects from damming, diversion, and mining over 255 miles of Oregon’s pristine rivers and streams as part of the nation’s Wild and Scenic Rivers system. I ask unanimous consent that the table be printed in the Record as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wild &amp; Scenic River</th>
<th>General Outstandingly Remarkable Value</th>
<th>Specific Outstandingly Remarkable Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elk River Additions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Impact mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, habitat for Southern Oregon Northern California (SONC) wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Mountain Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat for threatened marbled murrelets; habitat for SONC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Fork Bald Mountain Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery</td>
<td>Clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, waterfall, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panther Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, habitat for SONC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork Panther Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, habitat for SONC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Fork Panther Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, habitat for SONC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackberry Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, Del Norte salmonid; habitat for SONC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork Blackberry Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, Del Norte salmonid; habitat for SONC coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, clean cold water that supports mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCurdy Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork Butter Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Mountain Creek</td>
<td>Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, mature forest scenic values, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milkalia</td>
<td>Cultural, Scenic, Fish, Recreation, Geology</td>
<td>Fine fished cultural sites; highly rated scenery includes gorgeous river and views of cliffs, moss-covered boulders and debris streams; critical habitat for marbled murrelets, Port Orford-cedar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogue River Additions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arora Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation</td>
<td>View of and from the Rogue River canyon, and the Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Fish, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature forests and winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Windy Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Ecology</td>
<td>Del Norte salmonid, mature and old growth forest, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork Big Windy Creek</td>
<td>Fish, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, wild winter steelhead, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Windy Creek</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bouse Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation</td>
<td>Views of and from the Rogue River canyon and Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx Creek</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunker Creek</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology, Wildlife</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canary Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, views of and from the Rogue River canyon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corral Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forest, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowley Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation</td>
<td>Views of and from the Rogue River canyon and Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, and Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duling Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, and views of from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hewitt Creek</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Botanical, Ecology</td>
<td>Rogue River stonemarsh, mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Creek</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Ecology, Wildlife</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, scenic views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, winti coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Creek</td>
<td>Fish, Scenery, Ecology</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Creek</td>
<td>Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Botanical, Ecological/Biological Diversity, Wildlife</td>
<td>Mature and old growth forests, wild winter steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRIBUTE TO DR. BARDETT FAUSETT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Dr. Bardett Fausett, of Missoula County, for his service in providing care and treatment to Montana mothers and babies.

Early in his career, Dr. Fausett made the decision to serve his country in the U.S. Air Force. After serving his country, he was able to afford to go to medical school and provide for his young family after college. After serving 25 years in the Air Force, Dr. Fausett retired from his military service earned a position at the Missoula Community Medical Center.

Dr. Fausett went to Missoula with the hope of serving the community and providing care and treatment for mothers and their babies. Fausett took up the challenge of handling mothers with very complicated pregnancies and medical issues.

As a maternal fetal medicine specialist, he focused on treating babies and mothers while the baby is still in the womb. Pregnant mothers from all over the region with complicated medical issues traveled to see Dr. Fausett with the hope that he could help their families.

In his 5 years in Missoula, Dr. Fausett has delivered about 1,200 babies.

His service to our Nation in the U.S. Air Force as well as his dedication to continue his service by providing care to Montana mothers and babies is exemplary of the Montana spirit. He has changed the lives of many families across Montana by giving them personal care through challenging times.

RECOGNIZING EXPERTISE COSMETOLOGY INSTITUTE

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, each week the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship recognizes one small business that exemplifies the hard work and perseverance of the American Dream and the American entrepreneur. The great State of Nevada is home to more than 250,000 small businesses of all types, from mom-and-pop shop bakeries to world renowned cyber security firms. Nevada’s small businesses are the driving force behind America’s rapidly growing economy and the engine that powers our communities. It is therefore my honor to recognize Nevada’s Expertise Cosmetology Institute, a small business with a strong and deep-rooted commitment to improving lives and a desire to give back to the community, for recently having been named the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week.

Small businesses, especially minority-owned small businesses, are breaking down barriers in every corner of Nevada. Expertise Cosmetology Institute is the first African-American-owned school of cosmetology in Nevada and helps many of their students receive degrees in cosmetology, hair design, nail technology, aesthetics, and barbering. Expertise Cosmetology Institute equips its students with the knowledge to thrive in the barbering and salon industry and ensures graduates have the skills necessary to succeed post-graduation. Students gain a comprehensive knowledge of State regulations, training on the latest trends, and most importantly, how to manage and grow a small business of their own. Expertise Cosmetology offers financial aid to those students who qualify so no student with the desire to succeed in this industry is left behind.

I would also like to recognize Mrs. Gwen Braimoh who, in addition to managing Expertise Cosmetology, also runs the Expertise New Path program in Nevada. The Expertise New Path program helps women earn their cosmetology license while incarcerated at Florence McClure Women’s Correctional Center in North Las Vegas, NV. Mrs. Braimoh’s passion for helping the less fortunate and those who wish to build a better life for themselves is changing lives and improving our communities across the State of Nevada.

Small businesses truly are the driving force for development and growth in Nevada but across our entire Nation. Small businesses like Gwen’s not only help our economy succeed, they also give back by uplifting our communities, inspiring others to...
open businesses of their own and changing lives for the better.

Again, I would like to recognize Mrs. Gwen Braimoh and all the employees at Expertise Cosmetology Institute for their contribution to Nevada and our Nation. I congratulate them for being named the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee’s Small Business of the Week.

RECOGNIZING RETHREADED

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our economy. It is my privilege to honor a Florida small business that not only produces outstanding products but also assists survivors of human trafficking by providing dignified work and a second chance at life. This week, it is my pleasure to recognize Rethreaded of Jacksonville, FL as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Rethreaded was established in 2011 following founder Kristin Keen’s return from a trip to Haiti where she worked with survivors of human trafficking. Realizing that there was a need in her own community to provide opportunities to survivors, Kristin sought to create a safe haven where women could learn skills while also learning a living. Many Rethreaded employees are survivors of human trafficking and since its launch, Rethreaded has employed 40 women. The company has raised awareness about the horrific realities of human trafficking in the immediate community and beyond as well.

Rethreaded sells conscious gifts and handcrafted accessories such as purses, scarves, and jewelry at its storefront in Jacksonville, as well as online. Their website not only provides nationwide customers access to their products, but it also serves as a platform from which they promote human rights issues that are foundational to Rethreaded’s purpose.

Over the years, Rethreaded has partnered with more than 300 companies, including Southwest Airlines, which provides airline seat leather for various “upcycled” products such as keychains and earrings. Since the beginning of this partnership, Southwest has purchased more than 5,500 pounds of leather to Rethreaded, saving 2.8 tons of waste from entering our Nation’s landfills. This partnership provided national exposure, but it was not the first time Rethreaded has received acclaim. The company appeared on “Project Runway All Stars,” an opportunity which gave their brand yet another chance to promote their mission. Additionally, Rethreaded has established relationships with numerous strategic partners, named Freedom Partners, which supply ready-made products from around the world. Selling these ready-made products in the Rethreaded storefront and online supports like-minded enterprises that also strive to end human trafficking.

Rethreaded not only creates sustainable products for a good cause but also provides a supportive community for women who are in need of hope and healing. In addition to providing employment, Rethreaded has established programs to assist employees in the recovery process. Programs such as its warm-line telephone crisis support service, mental health group services, care management services, and individual counseling services target the unique challenges facing trauma victims.

Congratulations to Kristin and the entire team at Rethreaded on their 8 years of service. I commend their efforts to provide dignified employment and skills training to women in our community who have been impacted by human trafficking. Rethreaded is a great example of the positive impact social entrepreneurship ventures can have in our communities. I look forward to watching their continued growth and success.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:31 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. 241. An act to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2582. An act to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require Federal Reserve banks to interview at least one individual reflective of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity when appointing Federal Reserve bank presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3630. An act to provide rental assistance to low-income tenants in certain multi-family rural housing projects financed by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture, and to develop and implement a plan for preserving the affordability of rural rental housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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-2482. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9998-21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2483. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Alcohols, 22-23; Products from Overheads: Exception from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9998-
48 received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2487. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK10) (DFARS Case 2019–D045) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2490. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2492. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK10) (DFARS Case 2019–D045) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2493. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Update to Performance Information System Reference Data" (RIN0760–AK75) (DFARS Case 2019–D033) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2494. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Use of Certifications'" (RIN0750–AK54) (DFARS Case 2019–D017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2495. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Reduction of Payment'" (RIN0750–AK55) (DFARS Case 2019–D018) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2496. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2497. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2498. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2499. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2500. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2501. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2502. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2503. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2504. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2506. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2507. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2508. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2509. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Compliance with Agreements for Facilities and Services'" (RIN0750–AK61) (DFARS Case 2019–D021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.
the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environ-
ment and Public Works.
EC–2509. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of Air
Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; In-
frastructure Requirements for the 2015
Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard
(FRL No. 9999–41–Region 3) received during
adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 6, 2019;
to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2510. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
tited “Approval and Promulgation of Air
Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Re-
vision to Administrative Rules of Montana
(FRL No. 9999–32–Region 8) received during
adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to
the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2512. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
ipursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of Air
Quality Implementation Plans; State of Mon-
tana; East Helena Lead Nonattainment
Area Maintenance Plan and Redesignation
Request” (FRL No. 9999–28–Region 8) received
during adjournment of the Senate in the Office
of the President of the Senate on September 6,
2019; to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works.
EC–2513. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of Imple-
mplementation Plans; Arkansas; Approval of
Regional Haze State Implementation Plan Re-
duction for Electric Generating Units in Ar-
kansas” (FRL No. 9998–66–Region 6) received
during adjournment of the Senate in the Office
of the President of the Senate on September 6,
2019; to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works.
EC–2514. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of Imple-
mplementation Plans; Colorado; Regional Haze 5-
Year Progress Report State Implementation
Plan” (FRL No. 9999–34–Region 8) received
during adjournment of the Senate in the Of-
Fice of the President of the Senate on Sep-
ember 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environ-
ment and Public Works.
EC–2515. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of Air
Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Interstate Transport Requirements for Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulfur
Dioxide, and Fine Particulate Matter” (FRL No.
9999–15–Region 8) received during ad-
journment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 6, 2019;
to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2516. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of State
Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollut-
ants; New Mexico and Albuquerque-
Bernalillo County; Municipal Solid Waste
Landfills” (FRL No. 9998–59–Region 6) re-
cived during adjournment of the Senate in the
Office of the President of the Senate on Sep-
ember 6, 2019; to the Committee on Envi-
ronment and Public Works.
EC–2517. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality
Planning Purposes; Montana; Redesignation
Request and Associated Maintenance Plan
for East Helena SO2 Nonattainment Area
(FRL No. 9999–29–Region 8) received during
adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 6, 2019;
to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2518. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “South Dakota; Proposed Approval of
Revisions to the State Air Pollution Control
Rules and to the Permitting Rules for the
Prevention of Significant Deterioration” (FRL
No. 9999–16–Region 8) received during ad-
journment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 6, 2019;
to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2519. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Federal State Prioritization
Designation for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)
Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard
for Williamson County, Illinois” (FRL No.
9999–9–Region 6) received during adjourn-
ment of the Senate in the Office of the Pre-
President of the Senate on September 6, 2019;
to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2520. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain
Chemical Substances” ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL
No. 9999–26) received in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 9, 2019;
to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2521. A communication from the Acting
Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security, transmitting, pur-
suant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress of Unclosed Grants and
Supplemental Funding” (FRL No. 9999–17–Region
17–3”) ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 9999–12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2522. A communication from the Acting
Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security, transmitting, pur-
suant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress of Unclosed Grants and
Supplemental Funding” (FRL No. 9999–17–Region
17–3”) ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 9999–12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works.
EC–2523. A communication from the Direc-
tor of External Affairs, Federal Retirement
Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pur-
suant to law, the report of a rule entitled
“Additional Withdrawal Options” (5 CFR Parts 1550 and 1551) received during adjourn-
ment of the Senate in the Office of the Pre-
President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to
the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs.
EC–2524. A communication from the Sec-
retary of State, transmitting, pursuant to
section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act,
the certification of a proposed license for the
export of firearms abroad controlled under
Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of
5.56mm automatic rifles and parts to Thai-
land for use by the Royal Thai Army in the
extent of $1 million (Docket No. DDTC
2019–0729) to the Committee on Foreign
Relations.
EC–2525. A communication from the Chief
of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs
Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Depart-
ment of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant
to law, the report of a rule entitled “Food
Distribution Program on Indian Reserva-
tions: Revisions to Administrative Match
Requirement” (RIN0584–AE74) received in the
Office of the President of the Senate on Sep-
tember 5, 2019; to the Committee on Indian
Affairs.
EC–2526. A communication from the Fed-
eral Motor Carrier Safety Administration,
Office, Department of Transportation, trans-
mitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule enti-
titled “Increase of the Annual Limit on Ac-
ticipated Requests for Track I Prioritized Ex-
amination” (RIN0651–AD39) received during
adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 5, 2019;
to the Committee on Indian Affairs.
EC–2527. A communication from the Attor-
ey-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department
of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursu-
tant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Delaware
River, Chester, PA” ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket
No. USCG–2019–0690) received during ad-
journment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 5, 2019;
to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation.
EC–2528. A communication from the Attor-
ey-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department
of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursu-
tant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Illinois River, Mile Marker 162
to 166, Peoria, IL” ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket
No. USCG–2019–0729) received during ad-
journment of the Senate in the Office of the
President of the Senate on September 5, 2019;
to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation.
“Safety Zone; Ohio River, Portsmouth, OH" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0552)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2532. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Seattle, WA" ((RIN1625–AA77) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0598)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2533. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0562)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2534. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Lafitte, LA" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0563)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2535. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Kentucky Dam Marina Fireworks, Gilbertsville, KY" ((RIN1625–AAB0) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0562)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2536. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Diamondhead, DE and NJ" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0561)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2537. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Delaware River, Baker Range, DE and NJ" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0554)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2538. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River, Point Pleasant, WV" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0665)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2539. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Delaware Bay, Lewes, DE to Cape May, NJ" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0542)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2540. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Charleston, WV" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0694)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2541. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Homewood Wedding Fireworks Display, Lake Tahoe, Homewood, CA" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0693)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2542. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulations; Defense Access Rights Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters" ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0640)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2543. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulations; Upper Mississippi River, 839.5 to 840.5 St. Paul, MN" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0637)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2544. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dragnak Range; Upper Mississippi River, Bronx, NY" ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0442)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2545. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Military Access Rights Designations; Incorporation by Reference" ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0671)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2546. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Airspace Designations; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0322)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2548. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Military Access Rights Designations; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes" ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0324)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2549. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Military Access Rights Designations; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0325)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2550. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Military Access Rights Designations; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0322)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table, as indicated:

POM–132. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the Department of Health and Human Services to rescind the new Title X regulations that will impede access to family planning services and other preventive care to low-income and uninsured individuals who may otherwise lack access to health care; and

Whereas, Title X is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning services, including birth control, pregnancy testing, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; and

Whereas, California’s Title X provider network, which is the largest and most diverse Title X system in the nation, served more than a million low-income Californians in 2017 and over 25 percent of all Title X patients nationwide; and

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the federal Title X family planning program was established in 1970 by the United States Congress with broad bipartisan support to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive care to low-income and uninsured individuals who may otherwise lack access to health care; and

Whereas, Title X is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning services, including birth control, pregnancy testing, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; and

Whereas, California’s Title X provider network, which is the largest and most diverse Title X system in the nation, served more than a million low-income Californians in 2017 and over 25 percent of all Title X patients nationwide; and
Whereas, Every $1 invested in publicly funded family planning and related services saves taxpayers $7 by helping avert costs related to unintended pregnancies; and
Whereas, California’s billions of dollars spent each year on unintended births is certainly not a waste; and
Whereas, Title X is an essential part of California’s family planning safety net and has played a critical role in reducing unintended pregnancies by 50% over the last 35 years; and
Whereas, Patients rely on and trust their health care providers to provide a comprehensive and unbiased evaluation of their condition, along with all available treatment options, and
Whereas, The American Medical Association’s Code of Ethics expressly states that withholding information without the patient’s knowledge or consent is ethically unacceptable and that patients should be informed of all risks, benefits, and expected costs of medical options; and
Whereas, The State of California strongly believes public dollars should go toward family planning services that provide comprehensive, medically accurate, unbiased information, and offer the full range of contraceptive methods; and
Whereas, The Federal government’s harmful Title X regulations are likely to force many health care organizations and qualified family planning providers in California to choose between a critical funding source and accepting onerous and unnecessary regulations, resulting in reduced access to quality, time-sensitive care for low-income individuals across the state; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the United States Senate and to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and copies to the members of the said Senate and House of Representatives from this state; also to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation.

SECTION 5. This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject, or until the United States Legislature acts to withdraw this application.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:
By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:
To accompany S. 2460, a bill to amend and reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (Rept. No. 116–101).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times respectively, and referred to committee:
By Mr. RUBIO:
S. 2460. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to modify a legislative process for the fill; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BERNSTEIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. SCHUMER):
S. 2461. A bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BOIEY):
S. 2462. A bill to help reduce household energy burdens by expanding access to solar...
energy for low-income households; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Ms. SHAHERN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COONS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SMITH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2463. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for regulation and taxation of electronic cigarettes and alternative nicotine products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2464. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide injunctive relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2465. A bill to enact as law certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2466. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for safe and secure water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. BOOKER)

S. 2467. A bill to establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved urban communities and rural communities to green spaces; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2468. A bill to require employers to provide training to employees whose jobs are in danger of being changed or replaced due to technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 388. A resolution calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 348

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 506

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1143

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1413, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish an initiative on improving the capacity of military criminal investigative organizations to prevent child sexual exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1564

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1564, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agencies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1625, a bill to promote the deployment of commercial fifth-generation mobile networks and the sharing of information with communications providers in the United States regarding security risks to the networks of those providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1754

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to provide Medicaid assistance to individuals and families affected by a disaster or emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mrs. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to provide for the issuance of a Stamp Out Elder Abuse Semipostal Stamp.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1849

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to establish certain requirements for small refineries for the small refineries exemption of the renewable fuels provisions under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.
At the request of Mr. Peters, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1846, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Boozman, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1906, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Scott of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1954, to require the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to Congress on programs to promote palliative care for veterans.

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, schools of public health, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

At the request of Mr. Durbin, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

At the request of Mr. Scott of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2160, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit annual reports to Congress on programs to promote palliative care for veterans.

At the request of Mr. Warner, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Nevada (Mrs. Duckworth) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2242, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Presidential campaigns to detect and report such acts.

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2450, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of certain disputes arising from claims of servicemembers and veterans.

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. Romney) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

At the request of Mr. Graham, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Inhoffe), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) were added as co-sponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 308—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OR TO RELEASE UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL WHELAN

Mr. Peters (for himself and Ms. Stabenow) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 308

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow in July 2018 to visit family and friends;

Whereas Paul Whelan was arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged by Russian authorities with espionage;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and continues to be held there more than eight months after his arrest;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court has extended Paul Whelan's pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas officials from the United States Embassy in Moscow have routinely had their topics of discussion with Paul Whelan severely limited by the Federal Security Service;

Whereas even Paul Whelan's Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas the Russian ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now."; and

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to present credible evidence on the allegations against Paul Whelan or immediately release him from detention;

(2) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains in detention;

(3) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to ensure Paul Whelan is afforded due process and universally recognized human rights;

(4) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to continue to press the Government of the Russian Federation at every opportunity and urge the Government of the Russian Federation to guarantee a fair and transparent judicial process without undue delay in accordance with its international legal obligation; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to an end.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 1941, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 205, a bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. Cornyn. Mr. President, I have 5 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, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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, September 11, 2019, at 10
a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Katherine Lemos to be Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Steven J. Menashi to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen S. Marston to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Richard E. Myers II to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Anurag Singhal to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

UYGUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 99, S. 178.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detentions of these communities inside and outside China.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to direct United States resources to address gross violations of universally recognized human rights, including the mass internment of over 1,000,000 Uyghurs and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in China and the intimidation and threats faced by United States citizens and legal permanent residents.

SEC. 3. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People’s Republic of China has a long history of repressing approximately 130 million Turkic, predominantly Sunni Muslims, particularly Uyghurs, in the nominally autonomous Xinjiang region. These actions and the contravention of internationally recognized human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(2) In recent decades, central and regional Chinese government policies have systematically discriminated against Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and other Muslims in Xinjiang by denying them a range of civil and political rights, including the freedoms of expression, religion, movement, and a fair trial, among others.

(3) Increased unrest in the Xinjiang region as a result of the government’s severe repression is used in Orwellian fashion by the Government of the People’s Republic of China as evidence of terrorism and separatism, and as an excuse for further disproportionate response.

(4) In 2014, Chinese authorities launched their latest “Strike Hard against Violent Extremism” campaign, in which the pretext of wide-scale, internationally linked threats of terrorism were used to justify pervasive restrictions on, and gross human rights violations against, the ethnic minority communities of Xinjiang.

(5) Those policies include—

(A) pervasive, high-tech surveillance across the region, including the arbitrary collection of biometric data, such as DNA samples from children, without their knowledge or consent;

(B) the use of QR codes outside homes to gather information on how frequently individuals pray;

(C) facial and voice recognition software and “predictive policing” databases; and

(D) severe restrictions on the freedom of movement across the region.

(6) Chinese security forces have never been held accountable for credible reports of mass shootings of Hazans (2013), and Siriguuya (2013), as well as the extrajudicial killings of Abdulbasit Ablimit (2013) and Rozi Osman (2013).

(7)(A) The Chinese transfer of former Tibetan Autonomous Region Party Secretary Chen Quangqiao to become the Xinjiang Party Secretary prompted an acceleration in the crackdown across the region.

(B) Local officials in Xinjiang have used chilling political rhetoric to describe the purpose of government policy, including “eradicating tumors” and “spraying[ing] chemicals” on crops to kill the “weeds.”

(8) Uyghurs are forced to celebrate Chinese cultural traditions, such as Chinese New Year, and sinicize Uyghur culture is faced with eradication due to state control over Uyghur cultural heritage, such as muqam (a musical tradition) and meshrep (traditional cultural gatherings), and there is evidence that torture is now being used as a medium of instruction in Xinjiang schools and universities.

(9) In 2017, credible reports found that family members of those living outside of China had gone missing inside China, that Chinese authorities were pressuring those outside the country to return, and that individuals were being arbitrarily detained.

(10) There is ample credible evidence provided by scholars, human rights organizations, journalists, and think tanks substantiating the establishment by Chinese authorities of “political reeducation” camps.

(11) Independent organizations conducted investigations, including the satellite imagery of Hayat Samarkan, Omir Bekali, and Mihrigul Tursun, along with others who had been detained in such facilities, who described forced political indoctrination, torture, inhumane treatment, and solitary confinement, as well as uncertainty as to the length of detention, humiliation, and denial of religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms, and confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty. Poor conditions and lack of medical treatment in such facilities contributed to the deaths of some detainees, including the elderly and infirm.

(12) Under pressure from the Government of the People’s Republic of China, countries have forcibly returned Uyghurs to China in violation of international laws, regulations, and understandings, exacerbating the well-founded fear of persecution. States returning Uyghurs include Egypt, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and India.

(13) Six journalists for Radio Free Asia’s Uyghur service have publicly detailed abuses that family members in Xinjiang were forced to endure in response to their work exposing abusive policies across the region.

(14) Several United States-based companies are conducting business with Xinjiang authorities without sufficient due diligence or safeguards to ensure their business operations do not create or contribute to human rights violations.

(15) The Government of the People’s Republic of China is increasingly investing in the “Belt and Road Initiative” across Xinjiang and the “political reeducation” camps.

(16) The Secretary of State, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and individual members of the executive branch and Congress have all expressed growing concern regarding the pervasive human rights abuses across Xinjiang and the establishment of mass arbitrary detention camps.

(17) In August 2018, the United Nations Committee to Eliminate Racial Discrimination challenged the Government of the People’s Republic of China over abuses in Xinjiang, including the establishment of mass arbitrary detention camps.

(18) Between August and September 2018, Chinese authorities responded to these allegations by either flatly denying them or insisting that the facilities are “vocational training centers”. 

(19) In September 2018, newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michele Bachelet noted in her first speech as High Commissioner the “deeply disturbing allegations of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uighurs and other Muslim communities, in so-called re-education camps across Xinjiang”.

(20) Several United States-based companies have been named in response to their work exposing abusive policies across the region.
national Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281) and consider strategically employing sanctions and other tools under the International Religious Freedom Act (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq) against such entities. The appeal to the President of the ‘‘Country of Particular Concern’’ (CPC) designation for the Government of the People’s Republic of China that directly address particularly severe violations of religious freedom;

(3) the Secretary of Commerce should review and consider prohibiting the sale or provision of any United States-made goods or services to any state and individuals engaging in the Xinjiang branch of the Chinese Communist Party, the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau, and the Xinjiang Office of the United Front Work Department on their behalf to facilitate the mass internment or forced labor of Turkic Muslims, to the ‘‘Entity List’’ administered by the Department of Commerce;

(6) United States companies and individuals selling goods or services or otherwise operating in Xinjiang should take steps, including in any public or financial filings, to publicly assert that their commercial activities are not contributing to human rights violations in Xinjiang or elsewhere in China and that their supply chains are not compromised by forced labor.

(7) the Federal Bureau of Investigation and appropriate United States law enforcement entities should track and take steps to hold accountable officials who harass, threaten, or intimidate not only United States citizens and legal permanent residents, including Turkic Muslims, Uighur-Americans, and Chinese-Americans, but also Chinese nationals legally studying or working temporarily in the United States;

(8) the Secretary of State should work with the United States Agency for Global Media to expand broadcast programming necessary to increase broadcasting and information to these communities, and, if appropriate, barriers to the free flow of news and information to these communities; and

(9) the Secretary of State should provide a report to the appropriate congressional committees at least annually that—

(A) describes the current status and reach of the mass detentions of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities; (B) the deployment of technologically advanced surveillance and police detection methods; and (C) the counterterrorism and counter-radicalism claims used to justify the policies of the Government of the People’s Republic of China in Xinjiang;

(10) the United States Agency for Global Media shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(a) I N GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a report to assess national and regional security threats posed by the crackdown across Xinjiang, and the potential for heightened threats from other East Asian governments in Xinjiang, including the Xinjiang Party Secretary Chen Quanguo and other officials credibly alleged to be responsible for human rights abuses in Xinjiang and elsewhere; and

(b) ST ATEMENT OF POL ICY.—It is the policy of the United States to condemn and support the policies of the United States Agency for Global Media for their reporting on the human rights and political situation in Xinjiang despite efforts to silence or intimidate their reporting through the detention of journalists and citizens, and the taking of punitive actions against the employees of the United States Agency for Global Media and other media organizations that address these efforts.

(1) the President should condemn abuses against Turkic Muslims by Chinese authorities in Xinjiang;

(2) the United States Government should designate and impose sanctions against—

(A) those who, on behalf of the People’s Republic of China; and

(B) engages in censorship activities.

(3) the Secretary of State should consider the applicability of existing authorities, including the Global Magnitsky Act (Public Law 114-328), to impose targeted sanctions on members of the Government of the People’s Republic of China; and

(4) the Secretary of State should fully implement the provisions of the Frank Wolf Inter-
SEC. 9. REPORT AND SEMI-ANNUAL BRIEFING.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, after consulting relevant Federal agencies and civil society organizations, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the number of individuals detained in political “reeducation camps” and conditions in the camps for detainees in the Xinjiang region, including whether detainees endure torture, forced renunciation of faith, or other mistreatment;

(2) a description, as possible, of the geographic location of the camps and estimates of the number of people detained in such facilities;

(3) a description, as possible, of the methods used by the Government of China to force individuals to “reeducate” Uyghur detainees, as well as the People’s Republic of China agencies in charge of reeducation;

(4) an assessment of the number of individuals being arbitrarily detained, including in pretrial detention centers and prisons;

(5) an assessment of forced labor in the camps and in regional factories for low wages under threat of being sent back to “political reeducation” camps;

(6) a list of Chinese companies and industries benefiting from such labor, and a description of actions taken to address forced labor in Xinjiang concurrent with the People’s Republic of China’s Tier 3 designation under the 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report;

(7) an assessment of the level of access People’s Republic of China authorities grant to diplomats, journalists, and others to the Xinjiang region and a description of measures used to impede efforts to monitor human rights conditions in the Xinjiang region;

(8) an assessment of the repressive surveillance, detection, and control methods used by People’s Republic of China authorities in the Xinjiang region, and a list of individuals who hold senior leadership positions and are responsible for “high-tech” policing, mass incarceration, and reeducation efforts targeting Uyghur and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region;

(9) a description of United States diplomatic efforts to address the gross violations of universally recognized human rights in the Xinjiang region and in Xinjiang to protect asylum seekers from the region, including in multinational institutions and through bilateral relations with the People’s Republic of China, the nations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and other countries; and

(10) a description, as appropriate, of diplomatic efforts by United States allies and other nations to address the gross violations of universally recognized human rights in the Xinjiang region and to protect asylum seekers from the region.

(b) BRIEFING AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.

(1) In General.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, after consulting relevant Federal agencies and civil society organizations, shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees covering the subjects listed in subsection (a).

(2) Termination.—The briefing requirement under paragraph (1) terminates 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10. REPORT ON SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE XINJIANG REGION OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) In General.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, except as provided in subsection (c), submit to Congress a report that includes a statement of whether the persons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria to be designated for the imposition of sanctions under section 2241 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Public Law 99–459.

(b) Persons Described.—The persons described in this subsection are the following:

(1) the Party Secretary for Xinjiang region of the People’s Republic of China, Chen Quanguo.

(2) Senior full or alternate members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China whose professional responsibilities relate to the governmental administration of the Xinjiang region, or who have conducted business with government entities in the Xinjiang region.

(3) an assessment of the number of individuals in the Xinjiang region, including whether detainees are held in political “reeducation” camps.

(4) an assessment of the number of individuals who are being arbitrarily detained, including in pretrial detention centers and prisons.

(5) an assessment of forced labor in the camps and in regional factories for low wages under threat of being sent back to “political reeducation” camps.

(6) a list of Chinese companies and industries benefiting from such labor, and a description of actions taken to address forced labor in Xinjiang concurrent with the People’s Republic of China’s Tier 3 designation under the 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report.

(7) an assessment of the level of access People’s Republic of China authorities grant to diplomats, journalists, and others to the Xinjiang region and a description of measures used to impede efforts to monitor human rights conditions in the Xinjiang region.

(8) an assessment of the repressive surveillance, detection, and control methods used by People’s Republic of China authorities in the Xinjiang region, and a list of individuals who hold senior leadership positions and are responsible for “high-tech” policing, mass incarceration, and reeducation efforts targeting Uyghur and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region.

(c) Exception.—The Secretary shall not be required to submit a report under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, that the Government of the People’s Republic of China allows independent, unrestricted, and unsupervised access to the Xinjiang region for international human rights organizations.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 267.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 267) recognizing the September 11th National Memorial Trail as an important trail and greenway all individuals should enjoy in honor of the heroes of September 11.

There being no objection, the committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 178), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, September 12; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired and 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 and resume consideration of the Bowman nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, 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 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor, Vice R. Alexander Acosta, resigned.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 11, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Steven Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the Rank of Ambassador.

The Judiciary

Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Office of Personnel Management

Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, for a term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

James Byren, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The Judiciary

Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Steven D. Grimmberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Mary S. McIvor, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Stephan C. Shrier, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.
Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the community of Crescenta Valley, California upon its 135th anniversary.

The Crescenta Valley is comprised of the communities of La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, Glendale, Sunland, and Tujunga. For well over a century, this picturesque valley has grown and prospered, and today is a prominent suburb of Los Angeles nestled between the San Gabriel and Verdugo Mountains and the San Rafael Hills.

The valley was originally populated by Native Americans before Don Jose Maria Verdugo, namesake of the surrounding hills, was granted 36,000 acres by the Spanish Crown in 1784. Don Verdugo eventually went bankrupt, and the homeless thieves and bandits of the foothills who roved the area shared his namesake and were called “verdugos.”

Nearly a century later in the early 1880’s, Dr. Benjamin Briggs from Indiana moved to Southern California and purchased land in the valley, subdividing and selling 10-acre parcels, with the intent to establish a hospital for lung disease due to the clean, dry air. Dr. Briggs chose the name “La Crescenta” for the valley, noticing the crescent shapes of the mountains from the windows of his home. Although Dr. Briggs did not live to realize all his plans, other physicians and health workers followed his lead establishing health clinics and sanitaria; eventually yielding to the establishment of vineyards, orchards, and resort homes.

With the advent of an electric trolley line in 1913 which connected Crescenta Valley to Glendale and new Angeles, small family homes became available for purchase at a precursor of the thriving suburban neighborhoods that populate the valley today. In the 1930’s, the Crescenta Valley experienced a major calamity when a massive flash flood struck on New Year’s Day that took forty lives, and left hundreds homeless. Despite this tragedy, the Crescenta Valley grew rapidly, developing into an established, mainstream suburb, and the 210 freeway that was built in the 1970’s allowed distant communities to connect, incorporating Crescenta Valley even further into the fabric of Los Angeles.

The Crescenta Valley has flourished and has found its place as a distinguished part of the greater Los Angeles community. It contains many scientific, cultural, and historical highlights, from the beauty of Descanso Gardens to the world-renowned Jet Propulsion Laboratory. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Crescenta Valley upon its 135th anniversary.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete and Northeastern Pennsylvania native, Robert Barbieri. This year, Bob was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his distinct athletic achievements in the sport of football.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Bob started his athletic career at Old Forge High School where he was All-Scholastic in football and basketball. Bob played as an offensive linemen, linebacker, and place kicker, once converting 21 straight placements.

After high school, Bob continued playing football at The George Washington University. He was a starting offensive lineman and linebacker from his sophomore year on. During his time at GW, Bob was asked to play in the North-South College All-Star game.

When his college playing days were over, Bob first tried out for the Baltimore Colts. He then moved back to Northeastern Pennsylvania and pursued his passion in a different way. Bob coached the Pittston High School football team where he was highly regarded. During his coaching career from 1966 to 1998, he had a record of 159 wins, 100 losses, and 4 ties. His Patriots won 5 Wyoming Valley Conference Divisions Championships and tied or won Eastern Conference Championships with Shikellamy in 1967. The 1967 team was undefeated, with a 10-0 record during the season before facing Shikellamy in a hard-fought championship game that ended in a scoreless tie. Bob was a two-time Coach of the Year (1974 and 1981), and he also coached the UNICO team twice (1970 and 1981).

While at Pittston Area, he also coached girls’ basketball, boys’ basketball, junior high basketball, swimming, and junior high track. For his outstanding efforts and career, the athletic field house located in Charlie Tippi Stadium was named the Robert “Bob” Barbieri Field House in 2014.

It is an honor to recognize Bob on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.
We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that have made America the greatest country in the history of the world.

Later that day, I joined scores of my colleagues on the East Steps of the Capitol where we sang "God Bless America", candles, held hands, and prayed for our country and its leaders.

In the days ahead, I travelled to New York City to visit first responders and victims still recovering bodies and rescuing victims of the attacks. We became a charter member of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that 9–11 never again happens in America.

A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan, making good on the pledge that "[w]hether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done."

And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Laden could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Madam Speaker, Americans take care of their own. Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty.

And Americans want peace.

Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe.

Madam Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the families who can not be repaid... God Is Good and God Is Great, all in such magnificent heroes he creates...

For such selflessness there can be no greater gift than this.

Then, all of those Gotham Hearts who stood so courageously on that day we miss.

And laid down their lives illuminating our souls in the light of hope's golden rays...

With rays of hope and faith and courage and glory to our children we must convey...

And all of the new battles which lie ahead,

For all of those who stayed on the site who too now blood must shed...

Trying to give closure to the families, so their loved ones could be lowered into such solemn graves...

As its for them and all of their loved ones in this new battle pray...

And for all those innocents who died just because they went to work that day...

We Can Not and Will Never Forget...

As like them too we must face each new day with the determination and grit and courage as they...

To live our lives but For The Greater Good each day...

As we have built in their honor this magnificent shrine upon hearts which stays...

Which rises up of the ashes of hate in its light up with hope not in time...

So very splendid and so very fine...

That which now will so surely stand the test of time...

So that from generation to generation all of our children will find...

The answer to winning the battle against evil in its darkest of times...

Goodness, Evil, Darkness, Light, those brave hearts who evil must fight...

Who bring their light, together enjoined as we battle on into that dark night...

And that The Darkness is no match for The Light...

As we pray our souls be filled with such hope and such faith as they so bright...

Knowing full well that time does not heal all,

only up in Heaven when out to us our love ones call...

When, once again together again...

Let us find peace, let us find rest, let us mend with our Lord us to bless...

And watch over all of the families in their battle in the second wave 9/11's direst...

And all of the families who lost loved ones and grieve all in death.

As we thank and remember all of America's Best...

TRIBUTE TO J'S MAINTENANCE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Waldheim family upon the 50th anniversary of J’s Maintenance in Glendale, California.

For over a half a century, J’s Maintenance has provided clients with superb commercial janitorial services and is an outstanding example of a family-owned business that cares about their customers’ satisfaction, their staff’s wellbeing and their community.

Ed and Linda Waldheim bought the small janitorial service company in 1969 and re-built it essentially from the ground up. They have had clients ranging from individual residences to large companies like J.C. Penney and Sears. Their son, Chris Waldheim, currently runs the company. Under Chris’s leadership, the company has set a great example by conducting their business in an environmentally friendly way, from installing solar panels on their roof to using green chemicals for their cleaning services. Additionally, J’s Maintenance has implemented a recycling program and have saved thousands of pounds of waste from entering our landfills.

In addition to their business success, the Waldheim family also exemplifies what it means to be civic leaders. The family supports Relay for Life, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society to conduct research and provide services to patients while in treatment and are avid supporters of the Crescenta Valley and Montrose Chambers of Commerce.

J’s Maintenance has also invested in the local schools in the Crescenta Valley area by sponsoring activities like Clark Magnet High School’s robotics team and fundraising for Crescenta Valley High School’s prom. Most notably, however, is Chris’s support for and involvement with the YMCA of the Foothills. He served as a board member for several years, holding leadership positions, chaired the Community Support Campaign for three years, and he and his family continuously support the YMCA’s events. In 2011, Chris was awarded the Pat Aho Volunteer of the Year Award for his long-lasting involvement with the YMCA.

Our community has greatly benefited from the hard work and dedication of the Waldheim family and their business. J’s Maintenance, I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating the Waldheim family upon the 50th anniversary of J’s Maintenance.
Recognizing D. M. Bowman's 60 Years in Business

Hon. David J. Trone
Of Maryland
In the House of Representatives
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize D. M. Bowman, Inc., a transportation and logistics company based in Williamsport, Maryland. This company has used innovation and work ethic to make its mark on the trucking world. In 1996, D. M. Bowman Founder and Chairman Don Bowman designated this week as Driver Appreciation Week, an annual event celebrating the hard work drivers do every day. This year, I am honored to highlight the achievements of his incredible company and recognize our nation’s truck drivers, who provide all Americans a great service.

This year, D. M. Bowman is celebrating 60 years in business. Throughout this time, the company has been an invaluable source of economic stability and jobs for Maryland’s Sixth District. Although the business began as a one-man operation, due to Don Bowman’s determination and expertise, it quickly began to pick up speed. Now, D. M. Bowman has an exceptional fleet of 382 power units and 8 terminals on the east coast. As the company grew, so did its outreach efforts. Today, D. M. Bowman works with Hagerstown Community College Driving School to help individuals who obtain their commercial driver’s licenses find new career opportunities.

On behalf of the residents of Maryland’s Sixth Congressional District, I thank D. M. Bowman and its dedicated team for all that they have done for our community and recognize the 112,900 people employed by the trucking industry in our great state.

Recognizing Distinguished Public Servant, Margot Bester

Hon. Bennie G. Thompson
Of Mississippi
In the House of Representatives
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished public servant, Margot Bester, who, after nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the American people, is retiring from her position as Principal Deputy Chief Counsel at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Ms. Bester has served as second in command of the Office of Chief Counsel since the months following the creation of TSA, a component of the Department of Homeland Security created by Congress to ensure transportation security for our nation in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks which occurred 18 years ago today.

In coordination with the Chief Counsel, Ms. Bester has overseen the legal work of the attorneys at TSA and has been primarily responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Office of Chief Counsel.

Ms. Bester joined the TSA Office of Chief Counsel in April 2002. In August of that year, she was selected by Admiral James Loy, then Under Secretary of Transportation for Security, to represent TSA in its transition to DHS. She also served as the transportation security advisor to DHS Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson. In recognition of her service to the newly formed Department, Ms. Bester received the Department of Homeland Security “Day One” Award.

Early in her career, she was Director of Regulatory Relations with the United States Telephone Association and an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission.

A first-generation American, Ms. Bester was born in Buffalo, NY, to parents that had been granted asylum in our country after surviving the atrocities of the Second World War. Love of country and the importance of being an active, engaged citizen were ingrained at a young age. Ms. Bester has often spoken of the great honor of serving, protecting, and giving back to our nation, which provided opportunity and security for her family during dire circumstances.

Her passion for public service is second only to her dedication to her family. Of her many accomplishments, Ms. Bester is most proud as a mother to her sons, Brian and Eric, and as grandmother to Chase and Ava.

After spending a career protecting our Nation’s transportation security, Ms. Bester now heads an extremely well-deserved retirement from Federal service. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending the very best wishes and congratulations of the House as well as our thanks for her remarkable career and her notable service to our country.

Recognizing Distinguished Public Servant, Margot Bester
oxycodone and hydrocodone source of supply. During his tenure at the Las Vegas TDS, SA Smith’s investigations brought money laundering charges, substantial monetary civil penalties, and regulatory sanctions to bear along with Title 21 violations against DEA registrants and diversion drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

In November 2012, SA Smith was promoted to Group Supervisor (GS) of the Oakland Resident Office TDS with an area of responsibility which included over 50,000 DEA registrants in 15 counties of northern coastal California. GS Smith enhanced the mission effectiveness of the group by directing major enforcement initiatives at high value targets within the TDS Area of Responsibility (AoR). Asset seizures from his group increased nearly fourfold from $510,180 to $1,989,741, which enabled GS Smith to persuade local agencies to double the number of investigators assigned as Task Force Officers to the TDS. Under SA Smith’s leadership, Oakland TDS investigations charged eight doctors and three physician’s assistants with criminal offenses and put thousands of pills on the streets for good.

Prior to employment with the DEA, Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Smith served on Active Duty as an Army Reserve Military Intelligence Officer at the South Florida Investigative Support Center (now the South Florida HIDTA Intelligence Center). SSA Smith served in Iraq under the U.S. Army V Corps during the 2003 invasion. SSA Smith maintained staff oversight of all tactical human intelligence operations in theatre while serving as the CJTF-7 Task Force Counterintelligence Coordination Authority charged with the de-confliction of all counterintelligence operations in the Iraqi Theatre of Operations. SSA Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Florida International University and currently resides in Loudoun County with his wife and two children.

I am proud to represent Mr. Smith in Congress and I thank him and his family for their honorable service to our nation with the United States Army. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Smith as he concludes a distinguished career in public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR RONALD N. WEBER AND THE OPENING OF THE WEISER DIPLOMACY CENTER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser in so many arenas but today specifically for his leadership in launching the Weiser Diplomacy Center at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

The Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan is America’s first graduate public service training program. Since 1914, the Ford School has been teaching students how to address the most pressing concerns by using research and cutting-edge problem-solving methodologies to develop actionable policy solutions. The Ford School is renowned for its quantitative analysis of a wide-range of policy issues, making the school a frequent destination for distinguished policymakers from around the world.

Thanks to the wisdom and understanding of University of Michigan alumni and Regent Ronald Weiser and his wife Eileen, the Weiser Diplomacy Center was established at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy in January 2019. The Weiser Diplomacy Center provides a forum for leading diplomats and foreign policy experts to gather and offer practical training sessions and simulations to students to supplement their studies. It will bring a diverse cadre of seasoned diplomats and foreign policy experts to campus. This year alone, the center will successfully connect students with distinguished leaders like Condaleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, and Samantha Power, to name a few. In addition, the center sponsors a program for Weiser Diplomacy Fellows and helps students find internships pertaining to foreign affairs. The center will include lessons for students to practice international diplomacy and opportunities to learn from diplomats from around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser for his dedication to the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. The immediate success of the center is due in no small part to his work and tremendous leadership. Ambassador Weiser’s own experience has demonstrated to him the importance of preparing students in a quickly shifting foreign policy world through engagement with experts. The Weiser Diplomacy Center will be an invaluable resource not only for the students participating, but to our country and to the leaders of the future. The new diplomacy center will be critical for young people to engage with members of the foreign policy community and inspire a new generation of the importance of this field.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF GLENDI

HON. CHRIS PAPAS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Glendi, a Greek festival held annually in my hometown of Manchester, NH. Over the past four decades, St. George’s Greek Orthodox Cathedral has hosted this event, which celebrates Greek culture, crafts, music, and, of course, food. Every year, Glendi brings together thousands of people from across New Hampshire and the region to celebrate the contributions and traditions of Greek culture in America. I grew up and remain a member of the St. George’s family, which for over 100 years has welcomed the faithful to gather and be part of this time-honored community. Now as a member of Congress I could not be more proud to mark this milestone.

My great-grandfather Arthur Papathanasiou left Livadi, Ellasoss, a tiny hilltop town in Turkish-occupied northern Greece, to start a better life in 1906, and like many Greek immigrants, his family brought their culture and food and traditions with them.

As a life-long resident of Manchester, Glendi was always a highlight and the chance to see those traditions and culture on display was particularly special. There is truly no better celebration of the many contributions the Greek community have made in the greater Manchester area than Glendi.

By sharing our Greek traditions with the broader Manchester community, the festival makes our city more beautiful, more connected.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I want to thank George Copadis—President of the Board of Directors, Father Mike, and the St. George’s community for their decades of dedication to our community. I congratulate them on this milestone and thank them for all that they do to make our state such a wonderful place to learn, live, and eat.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGELINE “ANGIE” NANNI

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angeline “Angie” Nanni for her critical role in the once highly classified Venona Project breaking Soviet communications. Angie, with her unparalleled gift for numbers and analytical thinking, dedicated her career to breaking codes to maintain the safety and security of the United States during the Cold War.

Born August 2, 1918 in the small town of Blairsville, PA, Angie was expected to work in her sisters’ beauty salon. Not passionate about being a beautician, she ran the business side of the shop. However, during the end of WWII, Angie and her sisters set off to Washington, D.C. to help with the war effort. Once the war was over, Angie decided to stay near the capital. When the opportunity to take an exam led to a government job arose, she decided to take it.

Angie, one of the only non-college educated women taking the coded exam, not only passed with flying colors, but also was the first person to finish the exam. Her natural affinity for numbers allowed her to strip down the codes and extract the pertinent information. Angie joined the female-dominated coalition of cryptanalysts based in Arlington, Virginia post. Described as a “needle-in-a-haystack ability,” Angie’s job was to match messages coming from two distinct channels, accessing vital information from what were thought to be unbreakable Soviet codes.

During the era of McCarthyism and blind accusations, there was a secret group of women who held more confidential knowledge than any branch of government so close to their chests that not even their family members knew the details of their jobs. Angie worked for the Venona Project until it ended in 1980. At her retirement party, nobody knew from what job she was retiring.

Due to her hard work, in addition to the other members of the Venona Project, many encrypted messages from the KGB were able to be deciphered. Some of the most notable codes Angie helped break were names for Soviet agents and sources. In recognition of Angie, the KGB was upgraded to full Ambassador level, including President Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, The Manhattan Project, Julius Rosenberg, and Washington, D.C.
It is a great honor to recognize Angie Nanni for her service to our nation throughout her life. May she inspire others to recognize their true potential to make a difference in the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to attend the scheduled vote series on Monday, September 9, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on Roll Call No. 515 and yeas on Roll Call No. 516.

RECOGNIZING FORMER CAPITOL HILL STAFFERS
HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of former Capitol Hill staff who will gather in Washington on September 20–22 to celebrate 40 years of bipartisan friendship.

Whether competing in softball and flag football matchups, celebrating victories over burglar alarms, or enjoying weekend road trips to national parks and historic sites, there were always respectful and lively debates on the issues of the day. Accordingly, this group of friends shares a special bond that began right here in these hallowed halls and continues today.

Many of these congressional staff began their careers in 1979, working over the years for the following Members: Representatives Wendell Bailey, Larry Craig, Dan Crane, Phil Crane, Ed Derwinski, David Emery, Billy Lea Evans, Joe Gaydios, Bo Ginn, Larry Hopkins, Dan Lungren, Ray McGrath, Dawson Mathis, Bob Michel, Hal Rogers, Jim Slattery, Gene Taylor, Bob Whitaker, Henry Waxman, and Viri Weber, and Senators Jake Garn, John Glenn, Jesse Helms, Sam Nunn, Bob Packwood and Richard Stone.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this lasting friendship that began right here in the halls of Congress, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing this special group well as they remember fondly their days on Capitol Hill and their years of fellowship and fun.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH ANTHONY KARCUTSKIE ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME
HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete Joseph Anthony Karcutskie. This year, Joe was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019, for his impressive athletic achievements in the sport of football.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding accomplishments and contributions in athletic endeavors.

While at Wyoming Area High School, Joe was a three-year starter in football, team captain, All-Conference, All-Scholastic, and All-Region on defense during his junior year. During his senior year, he was All-Conference and All-Scholastic on offense, defense, and as a punter. This awe-inspiring athlete led his team in the number of tackles, sacks, and in punting average.

Joe’s high school career was incredibly impressive, but it was only the beginning. He continued his education at Brown University where he started every collegiate game as middle linebacker. During his junior year, he was named All-American. Still rising to fame, he was voted team captain during his senior year and was voted All-Ivy League in 1995, 1996, and 1997. During his senior year, he was also voted All-New England. Joe still holds the Brown record for tackles in a season with 137, and he also holds the Brown record for tackles in a career with 404. Joe was the first player ever to record more than 100 tackles in two seasons and is still the only player to lead the team in tackles in three consecutive seasons.

Joe was named a member of Brown University’s 125th Anniversary Team in 2003, inducted into the Wyoming Area Football Ring of Fame in 2004, and was welcomed into the Brown University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

In addition to enjoying a prestigious athletic career, he is currently a Vice President of Investments at Wells Fargo Advisors. He also coaches his son’s baseball team and has been a volunteer coach for soccer and the Wyoming Area football team.

It is an honor to recognize Joe on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT OF 2019
SPEECH OF
HON. FRED UPTON
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record a letter from the DERA Coalition in support of H.R. 1768 on the Diesel Emission Reduction Act.

DERA Coalition

Please support one of the nation’s most effective environmental programs.

When it comes to improving air quality for communities across the country, one of the most effective strategies is to replace older heavy-duty vehicles and equipment with new and much cleaner options. That is the goal of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program managed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We urge you to support continuation of the program as provided under Matsui-Long reauthorization bill (H.R. 1768) which would deliver vital air quality improvements and support local communities.

Four out of every ten Americans reside in a region with unhealthy air, according to EPA. The American Lung Association estimates that air quality improvements in many regions around the country is not improving. DERA helps communities clean up their air by replacing older trucks, buses, and equipment with newer, cleaner technologies. Replacing just one Class 8 truck with a new model can eliminate tons of emissions. DERA also enjoys broad bipartisan support from a long list of business interests and environmental and health advocates, including those signatories below.

According to the EPA’s latest report to Congress on the program issued in July of this year, since DERA’s funding was first appropriated in 2008, more than 67,000 vehicles and engines have been upgraded or replaced, delivering $19 billion in direct health benefits. Those benefits include eliminating 15,490 tons of fine particles and 427,700 tons of nitrogen oxides, a smog compound. That works out to just about the same emission reductions as taking more than 236 million cars off the road for a year.

The program provides enough funding to encourage owners to make a smart investment in their purchase of cleaner and often more fuel-efficient vehicles and equipment. As a result, every $1 appropriated through the DERA program is leveraged with additional $3 in nonfederal funds, generating between $11 and $30 in public health benefits and an additional $2 in fuel savings.

While DERA has been around since 2008, there is much to do. Many heavy-duty trucks and off-road equipment are built to last, meaning a large fleet of older and higher emitting trucks remain in service. Only four in ten trucks on the road today is equipped with technologies to achieve the latest near-zero tailpipe emissions standard set by EPA. Research shows that off-road equipment, including locomotives, are of an even older generation technology and will be in the field for decades to come. DERA provides the funding needed to incentivize the replacement of those older and higher emitting vehicles and equipment. The program is voluntary, competitive, and technology neutral, allowing funding to be used for projects, advances, or locally, that have the highest benefits for the amount of funding requested.

The Diesel Emission Reduction Act has proved to be one of the most effective tools to generate short-term air quality and health benefits for local communities across the country, but those benefits cannot be sustained without proper funding. We encourage you to support extending the authorization of this cost-effective and environmentally impactful program for an additional five years as provided for under the bill.

Sincerely,

In recent recognition of W. Brooke Yeager III on his induction to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame

Hon. Matt Cartwright
of Pennsylvania

In the House of Representatives

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Northeastern Pennsylvania athlete W. Brooke Yeager. Brooke was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at their annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his outstanding achievements in the sport of wrestling.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

For years now, before our eyes, parts of our open society have had the good sense to investigate them of their personal liberty. These years in our history will long be remembered by the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country. As a result, American society faces new and unprecedented challenges. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. As yet, our country has no systematic process or strategy for meeting these challenges.

Introduction of the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act

Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton
of the District of Columbia

In the House of Representatives

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act, expressing an idea I began working on when the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing tragedy, well before 9/11. This bill has grown more urgent as increasing varieties of security through the 21st century has been justified without any thought about their effect on common freedoms and ordinary access. The bill I introduce today would begin a systematic investigation that takes full account of the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding to the real and substantial threats posed by terrorism.

To be useful in accomplishing its difficult mission, the commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but for the first time, they would be at the same table with experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology. To date, questions of security often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts cannot alone respond to all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group needs to be working together at the same table.

For years now, before our eyes, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and fear of terrorism, even when there are no alerts, without regard to their effects on privacy or on an open society. Particularly following the unprecedented 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission following riots that swept American cities in the 1960s.

The important difference in the commission proposed by this bill is that it seeks to act before a crisis in basic freedoms gradually takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long-lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security that most often requires no advance civilian oversight or analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With only existing tools and thinking, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude roadblocks and other denial of access, or risking the right to privacy using applications of the latest technology with little attention to privacy. The threat of terrorism to our democratic society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and then come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level presidential commission of people and women from the spectrum of disciplines who can help chart the new course that will be required to protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

In recognition of the 75th anniversary of NSF International

Hon. Debbie Dingell
of Michigan

In the House of Representatives

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of NSF International. The organization’s wide impact on global public health is worthy of commendation.

The National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) was created in 1944 at the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health. At the time, poor sanitation guidelines jeopardized the health of American diners, and the risk of foodborne illness continually grew. The newly-established NSF quickly set out to develop science-based hygiene and sanitation standards for commercial foodservice equipment to combat the prevalence of foodborne illness.

The transparent, consensus-based process used to develop the NSF’s first sanitation standard is the process that is still used to develop all the organization’s public health and safety standards today.

For the last 75 years, NSF has been working diligently to anticipate, recognize, and control potential human health hazards to improve all human health. To reflect their expanded
Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence. As an inspiration to the next generation of induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame.

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

**OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete and northeastern Pennsylvania native, Charles E. Liott. This year, Liott was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame on August 11, 2019 for his distinct athletic achievements. Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Charlie showed athletic interest from a very young age. He started off playing Little League in 1963 and was part of the Rotary team that won the Hazleton Little League City Series championship. He is one of the only Mountaineer athletes to earn this distinction. During his high school career, he earned an innumerable number of awards for three sports. He was inducted into the Hazleton High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Charlie attended Temple University where he played four years of NCAA Division I football as a defensive end. He graduated from Temple with a bachelor's degree in business administration, earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Scranton, and received a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic. He received an additional degree in Chiropractic Neurology in 1989. He has been practicing at Liott Back & Neck Care Center in Sarasota, Florida for 37 years.

Charlie is active in his community, coaching girls’ and boys’ basketball teams. In addition, he also sponsors many little league soccer and baseball teams, as well as adult baseball teams. He has served on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors, sponsoring several children. He has supported many Girls, Inc. functions and raised funds for many years for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) through the South Sarasota Jaycees.

It is an honor to recognize Charlie on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

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**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

**OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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hearing—when a group of cowards hijacked 4 airliners in order to perpetrate the worst act of terrorism in American history.

Nearly 700 New Jerseys lost their lives that day.

No-one remembers the shock, horror and numbing sorrow more, however, than the families and close friends of the victims. Because it was a surprise attack, there was no chance to fight back that day although when Todd Beamer and other passengers learned what happened to the Twin Towers, Todd famously said “let’s roll” and they attacked the terrorists on board the flight that crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

Who can forget the courageous first responders running up the stairs of the burning buildings—with total disregard for their own safety—saving some at the expense of their own lives.

On the morning of 9/11, I got a mere glimpse—I say again, a mere glimpse—into the sense of horror suffered by the victim’s families when I couldn’t reach my own brother Tom—an American Airlines 757 Captain who often piloted Flight 11 from Logan to LA, the flight that crashed into the North Tower.

Evacuated from the Capitol and stuck in traffic within sight of the burning Pentagon, cell phones were all but gridlocked. About noon I got through. He and his flight attendant wife Sandy were safe but were in anguish because they knew the pilots and crew on board Flight 11.

For 18 years, the families and friends of those who died that day and since have had to endure their loss and a broken heart. Both then—and now eighteen years later—words are inadequate to convey our empathy for those who died and for the victims’ families.

For many, their faith in God has helped them survive and overcome.

THERESA JENKINS

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. McCaul. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Theresa Jenkins. My home state of Texas fosters a remarkable music scene. One such remarkable person I had the privilege knowing was Theresa Jenkins. Theresa was Senior Executive Director of the Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy. In that role and throughout her life, she was a tireless advocate for the music community.

Theresa began her career at Recording Academy in 2004. Soon after, the Recording Academy, best known for the annual GRAMMY Awards, quickly recognized her talent and within a year promoted her to Executive Director of the Texas Chapter. As the organization’s face in Texas, she had a hand in growing the careers of many songwriters, performers, producers and other music professionals in our state.

During her visits to Washington, I identified Theresa as an unwavering advocate for the rights of the recording artists and the music community. Year after year, she would walk these halls with prominent music makers from Texas and make the case for passage of legislation to help creators, such as the landmark Music Modernization Act we passed last year. Back in Texas, Teresa led groups to the state capital for the Texas Arts Advocacy Day in Austin. No matter where or when I encountered her, Theresa’s commitment, energy, and passion was always evident.

She recently poured that energy and passion into creating a world-class celebration of Texas music at the Texas Chapter’s 25th Anniversary celebration. Sadly, Theresa was unable to attend the festivities in person as in December of last year, she was diagnosed with advanced stage Esophageal cancer and was undergoing treatment at the time. Despite this, Theresa continued to work for the Texas music community, often making calls from her hospital bed.

Though Theresa was unable to attend the celebration, her husband Cris and daughters Jackie and Marina were on hand to hear the gratitude of the entire Texas music community. As the Recording Academy’s Chair Emeritus, Christine Albert stated at the event:

“For 15 years, Theresa has been a constant—the hub of the wheel, the eye of the hurricane, the den mother to our troop, herder of our cats and the quarterback of our team. She has also been a friend, advisor, and cheerleader.

Throughout her illness, she has continued to work on this gala as well as the ongoing robust agenda of deadlines and projects that are involved in keeping the Recording Academy’s mission moving forward. At the same time, she has made countless trips to MD Anderson in Houston, undergone chemotherapy, spent precious time with her family and friends, and taken care of her body and spirit.

We are all together, in one room. I ask you to generate all the love, gratitude, prayers, healing and good juju you can find in your hearts and send it to our good friend and fearless leader, Theresa Jenkins.”

Christine’s words were conveyed to Theresa with the prayers and good wishes of a grateful community.

Sadly, last month, Theresa passed away. The moving tributes from so many musicians are a testament to the love and respect she earned so well.

I will miss seeing Theresa leading her fellow Texans through the Halls of Congress and the statehouse. However, I know her legacy will live on and that the lives of our music community have been made better by their steadfast champion, Theresa Jenkins.

In recognition of Frank Majikes on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor referee and Northeastern Pennsylvania native, Frank Majikes. This year, Frank was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame at the 35th annual dinner on August 11, 2019 for his officiating and administrative achievements.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the state of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

Frank is a graduate of St. Mary’s High School, King’s College, and the University of Scranton. He also continued his studies by attending the master’s classes at Misericordia University. Since 1966, Frank has officiated on the district and state levels. In addition, he has accepted assignments from the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Locally, he was also involved in the administrative side of football from 1967 to 1969. Frank was the assistant athletic director for the Luzerne County Catholic Youth Center. From 1969 to 1970, he served as supervisor of recreation in the City of Wilkes-Barre. He also served as the athletic director of the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center from 1970 to 1973.

During his career, Frank has been a dean of students, teacher, and principal at different schools in the area. In addition, he served as the chairman of St. Mary’s Parish Pastoral Council and as chairman of the Police Civil Service Commission in Wilkes-Barre. He is also a volunteer at the Catholic Youth Center and for the United Way. Frank continues to devote his time and energy into his love for sports, serving as Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District 2 Committee Chairperson, interpreter of the Wyoming Valley Basketball Officials Organization, secretary of the Wyoming Valley High School Basketball Conference, president of the Wyoming Valley High School Swimming Conference, president of the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association, a member of the PIAA Board of Directors and chairperson of PIAA Human Resources Committee, member of the Wyoming Valley Athletic Association, and supervisor of College Basketball Officials for both the NCAA and ECAC.

It is an honor to recognize Frank on his induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May his story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

An additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.
MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the sourcing and use of minerals needed for clean energy technologies. SD-366

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine Holocaust-era insurance claims. SD-226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. SD-124

11:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. SD-192

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for Financial Services and General Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. SD-124

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold an oversight hearing to examine enforcement of the antitrust laws. SD-226

3 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine the situation in Southeastern Europe. SR-222

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine mass violence, extremism, and digital responsibility. SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine improving American economic competitiveness through water resources infrastructure. SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States policy in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on Hong Kong, alliances and partnerships, and other issues. SD-419

1:30 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Anthony F. Godfrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Doug Manchester, of California, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Erin Elizabeth McKee, of California, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Herro Mustafa, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, and Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Romania, all of the Department of State. S-116

2:15 p.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine gun violence in America, focusing on understanding and reducing the costs of firearm injuries and deaths. CHOB-210

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office report on tribal access to spectrum, focusing on promoting communications services in Indian country. SD-628

SEPTEMBER 24

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine competition in digital technology markets, focusing on acquisitions of nascent or potential competitors by digital platforms. SD-226

SEPTEMBER 25

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Mexico and Central America, focusing on ensuring effective policies to address the crisis at the border. SD-419
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5413–S5452

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2460–2468, and S. Res. 308. Pages S5447–48

Measures Reported:


Measures Passed:

Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act: Senate passed S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. Pages S5450–52

September 11th National Memorial Trail: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 267, recognizing the September 11th National Memorial Trail as an important trail and greenway all individuals should enjoy in honor of the heroes of September 11th, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S5452

Bowman Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Pages S5419–33

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 62 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 273), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Pages S5432–33

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, September 12, 2019. Page S5452

Feddo Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 92 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 274), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Page S5433

Nordquist Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 275), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Page S5433

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reaching providing that at 12:15 p.m., on Thursday, September 12, 2019, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; that following disposition of the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, Senate continue consideration of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security, post-cloture; and that at 1:45 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo. Page S5438

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 90 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 270), Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador. Pages S5416–18

By 54 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. EX. 271), Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years. Page S5419
By 81 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. EX. 272), James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 276), Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

By 80 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. EX. 277), Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

By 75 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 278), Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

By 90 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 279), Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—279)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5452.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

TSA OVERSIGHT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine protecting the nation’s transportation systems, focusing on oversight of the Transportation Security Administration, after receiving testimony from Patricia F. S. Cogswell, Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

ENERGY LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy concluded a hearing to examine S. 607, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 1739, to enable projects that will aid in the development and delivery of related instruction associated with apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that are focused on serving the skilled technical workforce at the National Laboratories and certain facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration, S. 1821, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, S. 2094, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide Federal financial assistance to States to implement State energy security plans, S. 2095, to provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threat to, the electric grid, S. 2137, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, S. 2300, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a program to incentivize innovation and to enhance the industrial competitiveness of the United States by developing technologies to reduce emissions of nonpower industrial sectors, S. 2368, to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support licensing and relicensing of certain nuclear facilities and nuclear energy research, demonstration, and development, and S. 2393, to promote a 21st century energy workforce, after receiving testimony from Senators Portman, Shaheen, and Whitehouse; Mark W. Menezes, Under Secretary of Energy; and Anton C. Porter, Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
NOMINATIONS
Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, who was introduced by Representative Clay, and Katherine Andrea Lemos, of California, to be Chairperson and Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen Spencer Marston, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senators Casey and Toomey, Richard Earnest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, who was introduced by Senator Burr, and Anuraag Singhal, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, who was introduced by Senator Rick Scott, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

MAKING OUR PATENT SYSTEM STRONGER
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine innovation in America, focusing on how Congress can make our patent system stronger, after receiving testimony from Tom Cotter, University of Minnesota School of Law, Minneapolis; Bradley N. Ditty, Inter-Digital Holdings, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware; Dan Lang, Cisco Systems, San Francisco, California; Adam Mosoff, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Arlington, Virginia; Josh Landau, Computer and Communications Industry Association, Washington, D.C.; and Earl Bright II, ExploraMed, Mountain View, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 4279–4294; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 60–61; and H. Res. 552 were introduced.

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:
H.R. 3691, to require the TSA to develop a plan to ensure that TSA material disseminated in major airports can be better understood by more people accessing such airports, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–201); and
H.R. 335, to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–202, Part 1).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Torres to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.


Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–29, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–200, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole.

Agreed to:
Crist amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–200) that codifies the Well Control Rule and the Production Safety Systems Rule in their original forms; and
Pages H7630

Barragán amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–200) that contracts the study entitled “Review and Update of Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Offshore Oil and Gas Operations Inspection Program” to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Pages H7631–32

Rejected:
Gosar amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–200), as modified, that sought to allow the bill to go into effect when DOI, in consultation
with USFWS, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs (by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 251 noes, Roll No. 520).

Pages H7632–33

H. Res. 548, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 205), (H.R. 1146), and (H.R. 1941) was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act: The House passed H.R. 1941, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, by a yea-and-nay vote of 238 yeas to 139 nays, Roll No. 525.

Pages H7606–22, H7634–38

Rejected the Graves (LA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 194 yeas to 233 nays, Roll No. 524.

Pages H7636–38

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–31, modified by the amendment printed in part E of H. Rept. 116–200, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole.

Agreed to:

Lesko amendment (No. 3 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that requires the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department of Defense, to confirm that this legislation poses no national security risk due to potential increases in dependence on foreign oil;

Pages H7617–18

Langevin amendment (No. 4 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that requires a GAO study on the impacts of offshore drilling on coastal communities and coastal economies;

Pages H7618–19

Rouda amendment (No. 5 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that adds a provision to the bill that would direct the Department of the Interior to make the information from the inspections and payments made into the ‘Ocean Energy Safety Fund’ required by the bill available to the public, including information related to the operators, facilities, amounts paid into the fund, and inspection results;

Pages H7619

Levin (MI) amendment (No. 6 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that establishes a moratorium on oil, gas, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the Atlantic Ocean; and

Rouda amendment (No. 8 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that adds a provision to the bill that would require the Department of Commerce to complete an economic impact study/assessment of potential damage related to offshore oil drilling—including tourism, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, boating, transportation, and other waterfront-related and coastal-related business.

Pages H7622

Rejected:

McClintock amendment (No. 1 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that sought to allow (but does not mandate) the Pacific OCS planning area to be included in a future five-year leasing plan under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act;

Gosar amendment (No. 2 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that sought to change the name of the bill to the Russian Energy Reliance and U.S. Poverty Act (by a recorded vote of 161 ayes to 272 noes, Roll No. 522); and

Pages H7615–16

Gosar amendment (No. 7 printed in part F of H. Rept. 116–200) that sought to allow the bill to go into effect when DOI, in consultation with DOL, certifies that the offshore energy moratorium in the bill will not kill a substantial number of minority and women jobs (by a recorded vote of 179 ayes to 252 noes, Roll No. 523).

Pages H7621–22, H7635–36

H. Res. 548, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 205), (H.R. 1146), and (H.R. 1941) was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, September 12th.

Pages H7638

Consensus Calendar: Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (NY) presented to the clerk a motion to place on the Consensus Calendar the bill H.R. 1980, to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women’s history museum, it having accumulated 290 cosponsors.

Pages H7664

Senate Referrals: S. 1881 was held at the desk. S. 2035 was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security.

Pages H7606, H7662

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7606.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7633, H7634, H7635, H7635–36, H7637–38, and H7638. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:20 p.m.
Committee Meetings

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES IN EDUCATION TO ASSIST STUDENTS IMPACTED BY GUN VIOLENCE AND OTHER ADVERSITIES

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “The Importance of Trauma-Informed Practices in Education to Assist Students Impacted by Gun Violence and Other Adversities”. Testimony was heard from Nadine Burke Harris, M.D., Surgeon General, California; Ingrida Barker, Associate Superintendent, McDowell County Schools, Welch, West Virginia; Joy Hofmeister, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma Department of Education; and Janice K. Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools.

PROTECTING AND SECURING CHEMICAL FACILITIES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing on “Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks”. Testimony was heard from David Wulf, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATING TO CONNECT AMERICA: IMPROVING THE NATION’S BROADBAND MAPS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Legislating to Connect America: Improving the Nation’s Broadband Maps”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING PRIVATE MARKET EXEMPTIONS AS A BARRIER TO IPOS AND RETAIL INVESTMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets held a hearing entitled “Examining Private Market Exemptions as a Barrier to IPOs and Retail Investment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE MACROECONOMIC IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Examining the Macroeconomic Impacts of a Changing Climate”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVIEWING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S APPROACH TO THE MMIW CRISIS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing entitled “Reviewing the Trump Administration’s Approach to the MMIW Crisis”. Testimony was heard from Jeannie Hovland, Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services; Charles Addington, Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and John Anderson, U.S. Attorney, District of New Mexico, Department of Justice.

THE ADMINISTRATION’S APPARENT REVOCATION OF MEDICAL DEFERRED ACTION FOR CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “The Administration’s Apparent Revocation of Medical Deferred Action for Critically Ill Children”. Testimony was heard from Timothy Robbins, Acting Executive Associate Director, Enforcement and Removal Operation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Daniel Renaud, Associate Director, Field Operations Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a markup on H.R. 4091, the “ARPA–E Reauthorization Act of 2019”; and H.R. 4230, the “Clean Industrial Technology Act”. H.R. 4091 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 4230 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT: BARRIERS TO CARE AND BURDENS ON SMALL MEDICAL PRACTICE

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Utilization Management: Barriers to Care and Burdens on Small Medical Practice”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRICING AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CONGESTION ON AND FINANCING OF AMERICA’S ROADS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Pricing and Technology Strategies to Address Congestion on and Financing of America’s Roads”. Testimony was heard from Oliver Gilbert III, Mayor, Miami Gardens, Florida, and Chairman,
Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, Florida; Travis Brouwer, Assistant Director for Public Affairs, Oregon Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 3636, the “Caring For Our Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 2972, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the communications of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to services available for women veterans, and for other purposes; H.R. 3036, the “Breaking Barriers for Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 2798, the “Building Supportive Networks for Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 2645, the “Newborn Care Improvement Act of 2019”; H.R. 2681, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the availability of prosthetic items for women veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3224, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans; H.R. 2982, the “Women Veterans Health Care Accountability Act”; H.R. 2752, the “VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act”; H.R. 2628, the “VET CARE Act of 2019”; H.R. 2816, the “Vietnam-Era Veterans Hepatitis C Testing Enhancement Act of 2019”; H.R. 2752, the “Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act”; H.R. 1163, the “VA Hiring Enhancement Act”; H.R. 3798, the “Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act”; H.R. 3867, the “Violence Against Women Veterans Act”; H.R. 4096, the “Improving Oversight of Women Veterans’ Care Act of 2019”; and legislation to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Office of Women’s Health, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Teresa Boyd, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN EUROPE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the state of diversity and inclusion in Europe, focusing on race, rights, and politics, after receiving testimony from Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, and Romeo Franz, both of Germany, Samira Rafaela, Netherlands, and Evin Incir, Sweden, each a Member of the European Parliament, and Alfiiaz Vaiya, Brussels, Belgium, all of the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup; Councilor Irene Appiah, Hamburg, Germany; Domenica Ghideli Biidu, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Netherlands; Daniele Obono, Member of French Parliament, Paris; and Olivier Serva, President of the Delegation of French Overseas Territories, Guadeloupe.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, an original bill making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and 302(b) subcommittee allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority allocated to the committee in H. Con. Res. 71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the expected nominations of Ryan D. McCarthy, to be Secretary of the Army, and Barbara M. Barrett, to be Secretary of the Air Force, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine developments in global insurance regulatory and supervisory forums, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Financial Services, Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled “The Future of Identity in Financial Services: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities”, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on Resolution for Investigative Procedures, 8 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine autocratic abuse of INTERPOL, 10 a.m., 210, Cannon Building.
**Next Meeting of the SENATE**

10 a.m., Thursday, September 12

**Senate Chamber**

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nominations of Michelle Bowman, and Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, at 12:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m.

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**Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Thursday, September 12

**House Chamber**

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 1146—Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act.

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**Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue**

**HOUSE**

Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E1127, E1129, E1130, E1131, E1132, E1133
Costa, Jim, Calif., E1133
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E1133, E1134
Hartler, Vicky, Mo., E1135

**Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E1127**

**King, Peter T., N.Y., E1128**

**McCaul, Michael T., Tex., E1134**

**Norton, Eleanora Holmes, The District of Columbia, E1132**

**Pappas, Chris, N.H., E1130**

**Schiff, Adam B., Calif., E1127, E1128**

**Shimkus, John, Ill., E1131, E1133**

**Smith, Christopher H., N.J., E1133**

**Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E1129**

**Trone, David J., Md., E1129**

**Upton, Fred, Mich., E1131**

**Wexton, Jennifer, Va., E1129**