

work in the agricultural world. Our conservation districts work statewide to implement natural resource improvement projects and build landowner engagement and commitment.

Just one example is the work that the Pierce County conservation District did when they partnered with local farmers to address management practices and were able to have a substantial impact on the health of 278 acres for shellfish harvesting.

The Puget Sound needs protecting. Other bodies of water like the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes have formal program status under the Clean Water Act, which helps ensure their consistent Federal funding. The Puget Sound and all of the wildlife in it deserve the same status under the Clean Water Act.

It is shortsighted and irresponsible to not fight for the Sound and its future. We owe it to the species whose futures are imperiled because of human activity. We owe it to our children and generations we will never know. We absolutely must protect Puget Sound.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, with all of the support from the Washington delegation, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, several important considerations underlie the purpose and intent of the Puget SOS Act. Puget Sound and its tributary waters are one of the most ecologically diverse ecosystems in North America with natural resources that have ecological, economic, and cultural importance to the United States and the many Tribal nations that have stewarded it for millennia. The health and productivity of Puget Sound is not only the cornerstone of the region's quality of life and vibrant economy, but its worldclass salmon fishery, commercial aquaculture, agriculture, and port activities ripple throughout the Nation.

Threats to Puget Sound, such as water pollution, sediment contamination, environmental degradation, and habitat loss, jeopardize the economic productivity and natural resources that support the increasing population of the region. For nearly a decade, State, local, and Tribal governments, cooperative partnerships, and concerned citizens have worked together in a deliberate and coordinated way to direct and manage public resource allocation toward habitat restoration, improving water quality and shellfish farms, and developing a body of scientific knowledge, all of which have advanced the Puget Sound recovery efforts.

Tribal governments with treaty-reserved rights in the natural resources of Puget Sound have long served as co-managers of fishery resources, have engaged in Puget Sound Partnership processes and public forums to encourage a holistic and scientific approach to recovery efforts, and have continued in their role as stewards of Puget Sound, including by engaging with multi-faceted restoration and protection actions, and are thus an indispensable, equal partner in all Puget Sound recovery actions.

Despite significant and nationally recognized accomplishments, the rate of damage to Puget Sound still exceeds the rate of recovery. To outpace mounting pollutants and other cascading negative impacts, the next step in fortifying the recovery system is to align Federal recovery and protection efforts seamlessly with State, local, and Tribal investments, as the Puget SOS Act would do.

Water and air pollution, sediment contamination, habitat loss and decline, and water flow disruption continue to devastate the fish, marine mammal, bird, and shellfish populations of Puget Sound, threatening local economies, and Tribal treaty rights, and contributing to:

Significant declines in the populations of wild Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Summer Chum Salmon, Steelhead, and Pacific Herring, which are essential food sources for humans, fish, seabirds, mammals, and other wildlife;

Risks to the sustainability of fish and shellfish populations, and their food chains, reproductive cycles, and habitats, which also threaten Federal obligations to protect Tribal resources, culture, traditions, and economies;

Marine species being listed as at-risk or vulnerable to extinction, according to State, Federal, and provincial lists that identify the species of Puget Sound and surrounding areas, including the iconic population of southern resident Orca whales;

Sediment contaminated with toxic substances—such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals (mercury), and oil (grease)—polluting Puget Sound, threatening public health, and posing significant dangers to humans, fish, and wildlife;

Rivers and beaches failing to meet water quality standards and becoming unsafe for salmon, as well as business and recreational activities, such as fishing and swimming;

The closing of shellfish beds from contaminated pollution caused by sources such as stormwater and agricultural runoff; and

Mortalities and morbidity in shellfish due to the acidification of Puget Sound.

Puget Sound is a national treasure and its recovery and protection will significantly contribute to the environmental, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States and the many Tribal nations that have stewarded it for millennia.

The PUGET SOS Act underscores the recognition that Federal Government should align its efforts and resources to fully implement and enforce the goals of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, including State implementation of non-point source water quality standards for salmon, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and all other Federal laws that contribute to the recovery and protection of Puget Sound. The Act also recognizes that the Federal Government should uphold Federal trust responsibilities to restore and protect resources crucial to Tribal treaty rights—including by carrying out government-to-government consultation—as well as support regional, local, and Tribal efforts to address environmental challenges.

The PUGET SOS Act is intended, among other things, to ensure that the recovery and protection programs, projects, and initiatives that the Federal Government undertakes in, or that otherwise impact, Puget Sound shall be actively coordinated and aligned with the protection of Tribal treaty rights and resources, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, Salmon

Recovery Plans, the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, and the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to all stakeholders who have come together to advocate for the recovery and protection of Puget Sound. The PUGET SOS Act is an important step towards those goals, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEATING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2247, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1345

#### CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1620) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1620

*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 “Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.

Section 117(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267(j)) is amended by striking “\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005” and inserting “\$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, \$90,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, \$91,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, \$91,500,000 for fiscal year 2024, and \$92,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1620, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1620. Introduced by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), H.R. 1620 authorizes the funding for the program for the next five fiscal years, with increased funding levels to better advance Bay restoration protection efforts. This includes \$90 million for the

upcoming fiscal year, incrementally rising to \$92 million for fiscal year 2025.

Since its funding in 1983, EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program has been working toward improving the water quality and ecosystem health of the single largest estuary in the U.S. Reaching to six States, and the District of Columbia, I might add, the Bay is a cherished water and the number of people and local economies impacted by its health make a program like this very essential.

However, as stakeholders noted in our June 2019 hearing, the ecosystem remains under major stress. The Bay is threatened by nutrient and sediment loads from sources like agricultural runoff, wastewater treatment facilities, land-use changes, urban stormwater runoff and atmospheric deposition. We must continue to prioritize programs like the Chesapeake Bay Program and the protection of our Nation's water. This bill will support the continued cooperative efforts of all involved to achieve the protection of the Chesapeake Bay.

I would like to recognize several of the bipartisan committee members cosponsoring the bill, including the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), and also a former Member of Congress, God rest his soul, Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support of H.R. 1620 from: Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the National Audubon Society, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019.

Hon. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO,  
*Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Washington, DC.*

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
*Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN NAPOLITANO AND RANKING MEMBER WESTERMAN: The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is a national coalition of sportsmen, conservation, and outdoor industry organizations that seeks to ensure all Americans have access to quality places to hunt and fish. We partner with 60 hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations to unite and amplify the voices of America's more-than 40 million sportsmen and women whose activities help sustain the \$887-billion outdoor recreation economy.

Today, we write in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1620). The legislation would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program and increase its authorized funding level to \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and then increase its authorized funding level by half a million dollars each year through fiscal year 2024. The Chesapeake Bay Program provides critical federal investment, which is then leveraged several-fold by state and local dollars, to improve the quality of water and wetlands habitat in the Bay watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Program is important to the continued conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. While the health

of the Bay had been consistently improved over the last decade, the 2018 State of the Bay Report showed that the health of the Bay declined over the past year due to an incredible amount of rainfall that greatly increased the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment, and debris that flowed into the Bay. Without a significant increase in funding for federal programs that help to restore the Bay, such as the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, this iconic waterbody will not be able to recover.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with your subcommittee to help increase funding in order to conserve and restore our iconic waterbodies.

Respectfully,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP.

AUDUBON, NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS,  
September 18, 2019.

Hon. PETER DEFazio,  
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.*

Hon. SAM GRAVES,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.*

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,  
*Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Washington, DC.*

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
*Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Washington, DC.*

On behalf of the National Audubon Society's more than 1 million members, our mission is to protect birds and the places they need for today and tomorrow. We write to offer our support for the following bills related to important coastal and water conservation issues that will be the subject of the September 19, 2019 Markup before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

HR 4031—GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE  
ACT OF 2019

The Great Lakes are home to 30 million people and 350 species of birds, but increasing challenges are on the horizon for the world's largest body of freshwater. Fluctuating water levels exacerbated by climate change, invasive exotic species and excess nutrients are putting even more stress on this ecosystem that is so important for birds and people. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has helped clean up toxic pollutants, protect wildlife by restoring critical habitat, and help combat devastating invasive species.

HR 4031 would increase funding for conservation projects to \$475 million over five years, by increasing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's authorization incrementally from \$300 million per year to \$475 million per year.

HR 1132—SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION ACT

The San Francisco Bay Area, home to the Pacific Coast's largest estuary, is also home to a rapidly growing population of 8 million people, and provides for a host of social and economic values through ports and industry, agriculture, fisheries, archaeological and cultural sites, recreation, and research. However, San Francisco Bay has lost 90% of its tidal wetlands and more than 50% of its eelgrass and mudflat habitat. Climate change exacerbates these conditions through drought that alters the salinity balance, ocean acidification that reduces species abundance and diversity, increasing water temperatures, and rising seas causing flooding that eliminates living shorelines and puts communities at risk. Many species of waterbirds forage in the San Francisco Bay, including Brant Geese and Surf Scoters, underscoring the value of this ecosystem.

HR 1132 would authorize a San Francisco Bay Restoration Grant Program in EPA and funding of up to \$25m per year to support the restoration of this estuary.

HR 1620—CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Salt marshes are special places to birds and other wildlife, but sea level rise has elevated the waters in the Chesapeake Bay by one foot during the 20th century and is accelerating due to climate change. Salt marshes provide valuable "ecosystem services", including nurseries for the Chesapeake Bay's commercially important fish, a buffer protecting coastal communities against storm surge, a filter that stops nutrient and sediment pollution from entering the Bay, and a recreational resource attracting visitors who contribute millions of dollars to local economies. Chesapeake Bay's salt marshes host globally significant populations of both Saltmarsh Sparrow and Black Rail.

HR 1620 would increase the authorization of appropriations for the Chesapeake Bay Program to more than \$90m per year.

HR 2247—PROMOTING UNITED GOVERNMENT  
EFFORTS TO SAVE OUR SOUND ACT

Despite significant investments in Puget Sound ecosystem health by state, federal, tribal and local governments, concerned members of the public, and conservation organizations, progress towards ecosystem recovery targets remains slow. The number of marine birds wintering in Puget Sound has declined significantly in the last 30 years and migratory, fish-eating birds appear to be at the greatest risk.

HR 2247 would authorize up to \$50 million in funding for Puget Sound recovery. The PUGET SOS Act also aligns federal agency expertise and resources, ensuring that federal agencies are coordinated, setting goals, and holding each other accountable will help increase their effectiveness and provide a boost to Puget Sound recovery.

HR 3779—RESILIENCE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ACT  
OF 2019

Pre-disaster planning can help communities adapt to the changing flood patterns that threaten people and birds species dependent on shoreline and riverine areas. These changes have led to more frequent instances of "nuisance flooding," as well as catastrophic events. NOAA has found that "nuisance" or "sunny day" flooding is up 300% to 900% than it was 50 years ago. In addition, catastrophic flooding events have increased in both frequency and intensity. These trends have been particularly pronounced in the Northeast, Midwest and upper Great Plains, where the amount of precipitation in large rainfall events has increased more than 30 percent above the average observed from 1901–1960. As sea level rise accelerates, it only exacerbates these impacts, which further compounds vulnerability in flood-prone communities.

HR 3779 would amend the 1988 Stafford Act to offer low-interest loans to states for "disaster mitigation projects", including investments in natural infrastructure projects, which would help communities prepare and recover from natural disasters.

We urge you to support and advance the bills listed above. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

JULIE HILL-GABRIEL,  
Vice President, Water Conservation,  
National Audubon Society.

BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS,  
Missoula, MT, September 18, 2019.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,  
Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Washington, DC.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,  
Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFAZIO AND RANKING MEMBER GRAVES: On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the fastest growing organization that represents sportsmen and women in North America, I encourage you to support House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and floor passage of Rep. Elaine Luria's (D-VA) Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1620) and Rep. David Joyce's (R-OH) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act (H.R. 4031).

Over the last decade the health of the Bay's ecosystem has improved. However, with increased rainfall in the region and the amount of sediment, phosphorous, debris and nitrogen eroding into the Chesapeake watershed, the water quality is on the decline.

H.R. 1620 reauthorizes an important conservation and restoration program that safeguards the Chesapeake Bay watershed and increases the funding level to \$90 million for fiscal year 2020 and grows by \$500,000 each year until fiscal year 2024. Lawmakers funded the Chesapeake Bay Program at \$73 million annually for the past few years. The additional funds will restore the health of the Bay and boost the regional economy that depends on it for agricultural and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The second bill, H.R. 4031 reauthorizes funding to conserve and restore the Great Lakes, the largest bodies of fresh water in the world by incremental increases of \$25 million annually until fiscal year 2026. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a successful program that strategically targets critical areas through multiple action plans and public input. Increasing funds will furthermore expand fish and habitat rehabilitation and implement collaborative projects between federal, state and local stakeholders.

The Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes programs provide necessary federal investments that leverage state and local dollars to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat for Canada geese, speckled trout and other game species. BHA believes H.R. 1620 and H.R. 4031 are essential to the health of fish and wildlife and the general public who depend on clean water for agriculture and municipal needs at home.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act. We look forward to working with you to advance the legislation through the House.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. GALE,  
Conservation Director,  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION,  
Annapolis, MD, November 5, 2019.

Hon. ELAINE LURIA,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN LURIA: Thank you for sponsoring H.R. 1620, the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act. As the pre-eminent organization dedicated to Saving the Bay, we're proud to support this legislation. As you know, the Chesapeake Bay Program is the glue that holds the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint together and provides essential oversight to ensure that all are doing their part.

H.R. 1620 reauthorizes this program and provides a steady annual increase in funding

over the next five years. This demonstrates Congress's continued bipartisan commitment to restoring the Bay and acknowledges the accelerated efforts that are needed to ensure that the requirements of the Blueprint are met by 2025.

This is essential at this critical juncture. The partnership has proven to be effective: dead zones are getting smaller; bay grasses are rebounding; oyster restoration is underway; and local economies are improving. However, the Bay is facing new challenges due to threats from the impacts of climate change, increased loads from the Conowingo Dam, regulatory rollbacks, and shortfalls in funding (including the over \$320 Million annual shortfall identified by Pennsylvania in its latest Watershed Implementation Plan). Simply stated, there is still significant work to be done and the leadership role of the federal government and the Executive Council at this stage is paramount. Passing H.R. 1620, and its companion bill, S. 701, will be an important piece to ensure that the Bay jurisdictions fulfill their obligations under the Blueprint.

We look forward to working with you and your fellow cosponsors to pass this vital bipartisan legislation. Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

WILL BAKER,  
President & CEO.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1620, the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act.

H.R. 1620 represents good governance to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program and passed out of the committee with strong bipartisan support.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed is one of the largest estuaries in the United States, covering 64,000 square miles; is home to more than 18 million people; hosts two major ports as major international gateways for trade; and produces about 500 million pounds of seafood each year, some of which I enjoyed just the other day.

I want to thank Members for their continued support for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, including Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mr. RIGGLEMAN of Virginia, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. I know this issue is very important to their districts, their constituencies, and to the entire region and, frankly, the Nation.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), the lead sponsor.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan bill will reauthorize \$455 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program over the next 5 years.

The Chesapeake Bay is one of our Nation's greatest national treasures. It helps generate \$33 billion in economic value annually and is home to spectacular natural beauty and ecological diversity. The EPA's Chesapeake Bay

Program coordinates regional conservation efforts, but Congress has not reauthorized this critical program since 2005.

Thanks to innovative partnerships between local, State, and Federal agencies and NGOs, the health of the Bay has improved in recent years. But this progress is fragile, and unless Congress acts, we risk losing these gains.

In 2014, all States within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the District of Columbia signed the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. This partnership committed these States to work together and with the EPA to put in place all the necessary conservation practices by 2025.

Part of this agreement includes setting a limit, called the Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, on pollution from chemicals like nitrogen and phosphorus.

The EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program supports the work of States in meeting their commitments under this agreement. Funding for the Bay program goes directly to localities to improve local conservation efforts.

By passing the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act, Congress will reaffirm that all States in the watershed and the EPA must work together to achieve these restoration goals. This includes ensuring that all States have plans in place to comply with the TMDL and all other necessary conservation goals.

I want to thank my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, Congressman ROB WITTMAN, and Congressman JOHN SARBANES for working with me to achieve this bipartisan victory for the Bay.

I also thank Chairwoman NAPOLITANO and Ranking Member WESTERMAN for their support in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 1620, the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act, that will extend and fund the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program until 2024.

I am proud to have joined my colleagues from the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Representatives ELAINE LURIA, BOBBY SCOTT, and JOHN SARBANES in introducing this important legislation.

The Chesapeake Bay is, indeed, a national treasure and a centerpiece of the culture and economy of many communities in Virginia and neighboring States.

A clean and healthy Bay is the right thing to do for future generations, but it will also support local economies and provide numerous other economic and quality-of-life benefits.

The commercial seafood industry alone employs 34,000 in Virginia and

Maryland and generates \$3.4 billion in sales.

A clean and healthy Bay also supports a vibrant tourism and outdoor recreational industry. These industries in the watershed support over 820,000 jobs and \$13 billion in income.

EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program does important work in partnership with Bay States to control pollution and manage nutrient runoff into the rivers feeding into the Bay.

Through the Chesapeake Bay Program, we see the overall health of the Bay has improved significantly over the last 30 years. We are seeing better water quality, more rockfish, more blue crabs, more oysters, and the list goes on and on.

However, without continued collaboration among stakeholders and Federal support, progress in the Bay is indeed threatened. With today's actions, we are one step closer to ensuring that the Chesapeake Bay remains the economic foundation of our region that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

We all enjoy the Bay, whether we are in the Bay watershed or outside the Bay watershed. It really is, indeed, a national treasure.

If you look and think about the Bay, the workboats that you see there on a daily basis, the great way of life of folks in these waterside communities, it really is, I think, incumbent upon all of us to work hard and make sure we continue, not just to preserve the Bay, but make sure we see the Bay improve in water quality.

It plays an important role in my family. My son is a commercial fisherman, what we call in our area, a waterman, so he lets me know on a daily basis what is right and what is not right with the Chesapeake Bay, and encourages me to make sure we are doing everything we can to continue as good stewards of that fantastic resource, to make sure it continues to provide for those people that make their living off of the water; but also provides for the quality of life of those folks that live in the watershed, and continues to be a national treasure.

Even today under the stress, it is, indeed, one of the most productive water bodies in the entire world. If we continue on this path of improving the water quality there, I believe it can be even more productive and provide even more economic value, as well as just that intrinsic value that it provides to all of us; not just those in the watershed but to us as a Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure and continuing the vital work of saving the Chesapeake Bay.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inquire if my colleague is ready to close.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to think of what Mr. WITTMAN and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle stated; that this Chesapeake Bay, it is a tremendous resource to our Nation, recreational opportunities, the shipping opportunities in it, never mind the wonderful seafood.

I urge support of this bipartisan piece of legislation by all Members, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I am glad that this bill gets bipartisan support from Members of Congress and I intend to support the bill. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1620, the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act. I commend my colleague and fellow Virginian, Congresswoman ELAINE LURIA, for introducing this bill which will further the Chesapeake Bay's ongoing restoration. As a co-chair of the bipartisan Chesapeake Bay Task Force, I recognize the critical role that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and it's Chesapeake Bay Program play in coordinating the multi-state restoration effort. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Deterioration of the Bay and how to best address the problem has been a concern for almost half a century. While serving as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I was part of a joint Virginia-Maryland legislative advisory commission focused on determining what actions were necessary to address Bay issues. We concluded that restoring the Bay would require more than just Virginia and Maryland, but rather, the collaboration of the entire 64,000 square-mile watershed.

The EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, which was created during the Reagan Administration and ratified by Congress in 1987, facilitates the cooperation between the watershed states and the federal government to restore the Bay. Re-authorization of the critical Chesapeake Bay Program is long overdue.

Increases in underwater grasses and the blue crab population indicate our efforts are working, however more resources and continued coordination efforts are necessary to ensure that these gains are maintained and that the Chesapeake Bay is protected. The Total Maximum Daily Load, sometimes referred to as a "pollution diet," was established in 2010 and is a key part of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program and the EPA's role in establishing and enforcing those limits are an essential part of the ongoing restoration process.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national commercial, recreational, ecological treasure and we have a moral responsibility to preserve it. I commend the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for reporting this bill favorably to the full House and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1620, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACT OF 2019

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4031) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4031

*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 "Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019" or the "GLRI Act of 2019".

### SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 118(c)(7)(J)(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)(J)(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking "is authorized" and inserting "are authorized";

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by striking "this paragraph \$300,000,000" and inserting the following: "this paragraph—

"(I) \$300,000,000"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(II) \$375,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

"(III) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

"(IV) \$425,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

"(V) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

"(VI) \$475,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4031.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4031 would reauthorize Federal appropriations for EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), H.R. 4031 authorizes total appropriations of approximately \$2.5 billion over the next 5 years for restoration efforts under EPA's GLRI program. The wide support for this bipartisan program is evidenced by the diversity of cosponsors of the bill, including many of the committee members, such as Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. STAUBER.

The Great Lakes region encompasses eight different States and is home to more than 30 million people. These