

resident of Emery County, Ray understands well the challenges facing rural communities and the profound impact that federal, state, and local policy decisions have on the livelihoods of so many. In his role as Emery County Public Lands Administrator, Ray was consequential in assisting policymakers—from the county commission to the federal government—reconcile differences and find solutions for the county's land management, whose expansive plans fall heavily under state and federal domain.

Sustained opportunity and access to Emery County's lands are paramount for its economic vitality, particularly to its agriculture, recreation and tourism industries, and its local mining, gas and oil development. Ray has helped these key local industries navigate the challenges and opportunities of land management issues, to find compromise and success.

A fitting final accomplishment to his career, Ray was instrumental in helping Utah's congressional delegation secure a victory for Emery County and the state's public lands as the Emery County Public Lands Management Act was signed into law. This legislation marked the culmination of years of collaboration and cooperation with local partners and officials, ensuring ongoing uses will be enjoyed in Emery County without fear of a potential national monument designation from D.C., and consolidation of Utah trust lands that will generate millions in revenue for our school kids. It also included long-sought local land transfers to meet city government needs while expanding Goblin Valley State Park, a truly unique place that will now be better managed for future generations.

Ray Petersen has championed rural lands issues of extraordinary significance to Utah throughout his esteemed career. Our great state owes him a debt of gratitude for three decades of selfless public service. I thank Ray.

CONGRATULATING MS. ELIZABETH  
CARR

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 1, 2020*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Carr for receiving the 2020 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award presented by Humanities Texas.

Humanities Texas presents annual statewide awards to encourage excellence in teaching and recognize Texas teachers who have made exemplary contributions in teaching, curriculum development and extra-curricular programming. Ms. Carr was one of 16 teachers selected to be recognized, competing against an application pool of over 700 educators. Along with this prestigious award, Ms. Carr will also receive a \$5,000 prize and a supplementary sum of \$1,000 designated to help her school further humanity-based education.

Ms. Carr has been a teacher for almost fifteen years, and currently teaches U.S. History and World Geography at South Texas ISD Medical Professions High School. Her work to promote high-quality and equitable education to students in my district is admirable and critical in ensuring our students are well-prepared once they complete high school.

Madam Speaker, I send my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Elizabeth Carr for earning the highly prestigious Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award. Her dedication to her students and passion for the humanities is commendable, and her contributions to South Texas students and the school district will reverberate for years to come.

INVESTING IN A NEW VISION FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUR-  
FACE TRANSPORTATION IN  
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 30, 2020*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act.

I want to thank Chairman DEFazio, Chairwoman NORTON and Chairman LIPINSKI for their tremendous work on the Surface Transportation portions of this bill. I would also like to thank the leadership for including water provisions from my Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, and thank Chairman GRIJALVA for including my water recycling bill from the Natural Resources Committee in this package.

Mr. Speaker, the surface transportation section of this bill will make a significant impact in improving American lives by reducing commute times, increasing safety on our highways, bridges, buses and rails, and improving our environment.

As the senior Californian on the Committee, I am proud that this bill will provide \$37.5 billion in transportation funding for California, including \$26.5 billion for Highway projects and \$11 billion for Transit.

H.R. 2 includes important provisions I have worked on to improve transportation in the San Gabriel Valley, California, and our nation. These provisions are:

A new Transit Worker Protection Program providing \$60 million per year for transit agencies to work with transit unions to identify and implement transit worker safety measures such as bus driver barriers and blind spot removals. This will improve security and safety for all passengers, the bus drivers, and pedestrians. This program is based on my bill H.R. 1139, the Transit Worker Protection Act.

The bill includes a provision to allow local transportation agencies and cities to give preference to our local residents when hiring workers for transportation projects. With Southern California raising incredible funds for local transportation projects, taxpayers in our region should be given preference to work on the local projects they are paying for. This will allow that.

\$2.5 billion for a new highway rail underpass construction program (known as a grade separation grant program). This was created after we had the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments testify earlier this year regarding the importance of highway rail safety and the very successful Alameda Corridor East underpass construction program in my region. This will create important safety and commuter benefits by separating the rail line from the roadway.

\$1.725 billion for electric bus purchases. This is important to Foothill Transit and LA METRO in my district who are rapidly purchasing electric buses for their fleet. It also helps these transit agencies with funding the electric charging infrastructure and the maintenance of these new-age buses. This will also support the workers in the electric bus industry including my constituents who work at Proterra bus company in Industry, CA. We must continue to improve the air quality of our region with clean bus implementation.

\$7 billion for bicycle, pedestrian, and safe routes to school projects. Many of the residents and cities in the San Gabriel Valley use this funding to improve bike trails and walkways that allow students and workers to safely get to school, work, and the Metro station or bus stop.

The bill updates competitive grant funding requirements for transportation grants so that projects in the San Gabriel Valley have a better chance of being selected based on the merit of their applications. Southern California transportation projects such as the 57/60 confluence project and the Alameda Corridor East Highway Rail grade crossing separation projects are the highest ranked projects in the country but consistently get overlooked because of politics. This bill makes the grant requirements more associated with project quality and less by politics.

The bill allows states to use federal transportation funds to build suicide barriers on bridges. Studies show that the vast majority of suicides on bridges are because of a sudden impulse, and if a barrier were erected the person would not continue with a suicide attempt. This is based on my bill with Rep. BEYER of Virginia called the Barriers to Suicide Act (H.R. 4309).

The bill includes a provision that would require the Department of Transportation when working with local agencies on transit oriented development projects to address homeless housing assistance. The expansion of the Gold Line in my district has created important housing opportunities for residents that could be used to also address the homeless crisis we are facing in the San Gabriel Valley.

The bill creates a Truck Driver Leasing Task Force that is based on a bill I introduced last Congress, H.R. 4144, the Port Truck Driver Bill of Rights. This will focus federal regulators and policy experts on creating solutions to controversial leasing arrangements in the trucking industry that are especially found at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These illegal tactics by some trucking companies underpay truck drivers by forcing them into leasing arrangements that require them to work long hours without abiding by minimum wage laws, let alone reasonable pay and benefits. This task force will address these unfair practices against workers.

The bill allows electric vehicle charging stations at park-and-ride lots and rest areas located along the highway. Federal law currently prohibits electric vehicle charging stations at these locations and my provision will fix that. This is a huge problem at 20 park-and-ride lots in Los Angeles County including the El Monte Bus Station in my district, which is the largest bus transit station on the West coast. Electric vehicles owners should be allowed to drive to the metro station and charge their car while taking transit.

The bill stops the Trump Administration from threatening to withhold \$250 million annually