

Additionally, to enhance the dissemination of rural loans, the bill introduces an opportunity for an intermediary that currently makes at least 25 percent of its loans to a small business serving rural areas the ability to receive a 5 percent bonus technical assistance grant.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. KIM for working together to protect American taxpayer dollars and to ensure our rural communities have the ability to utilize this program to its fullest.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support this bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT). I thank him for his leadership in pushing this legislation.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT for this opportunity as a freshman. It doesn't escape me that you all have allowed me to move forward with a meaningful piece of legislation as a freshman, and I can assure you that the people I represent thank you all very much.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses, whether in urban centers or rural areas, deserve access to small business administration resources.

The Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act is strong, bipartisan legislation that improves rural access to the SBA microloan program and will help ensure that community-based businesses, and not just the heavy hitters, have access to needed resources.

□ 1445

As a former local mayor, I know the difference that easy access to loans, even small ones, can make for our American mom-and-pop shops.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, rural small businesses often don't get enough consideration from microloan providers. To incentivize interest in supporting our rural small businesses, this legislation would establish a 5 percent technical assistance grant for intermediaries who make 25 percent of their loans to these small businesses. Rural small businesses will have more opportunity to grow and innovate with the help of this legislation.

This bill also improves transparency within the SBA microloan program so American taxpayers know their dollars are being invested responsibly. Under this legislation, Mr. Speaker, the SBA would update Congress with a portfolio risk analysis of microloans on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and the steps it takes to promote fair access to financial resources for every American small business. I am proud to work with my friend Representative KIM on this bill, and I thank him for his efforts

to get it across the finish line. I also thank the chairwoman and the ranking member.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The recent growth of the SBA's microloan program has shown how beneficial it can be to small-dollar borrowers. Not only does this bill make the program more valuable to small firms located in rural areas, it also increases transparency and allows future Congresses with important information to help guide policy decisions.

This is a bipartisan, good government piece of legislation that deserves each Member's support.

I thank Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. KIM for their leadership. I once again thank Representative VELÁZQUEZ for, as always, working together with us in a bipartisan fashion. I very much appreciate that.

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

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

Oftentimes, the biggest barrier to entrepreneurship is accessing affordable capital. But for many entrepreneurs, access to expert advice can give them an added boost and the skills needed to grow a sustainable business.

To that end, the microloan program leverages the network of nonprofit intermediary lenders, many of them CDFIs, who have deep roots in the local community, are committed to economic development, and offer technical business and marketing assistance for these small businesses.

This bill will go a long way in helping these microlenders reach more small businesses in rural areas, which, in turn, will stimulate the local economies. It also mandates reporting on the program's effectiveness so our committee can continue to oversee the program and make necessary modifications to further improve the program.

Again, thank you to Representative BURCHETT and Representative KIM for collaborating on the bill before us today. I also thank the ranking member, Mr. CHABOT, and his staff for working with us in a bipartisan manner, not just on this piece of legislation, but on all the bills we have brought to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4894, 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.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2020

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4894) to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4894

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 “Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–282; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than monthly when practicable, and in any event not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary (in consultation with the Director and, with respect to information described in subsection (b)(2), the head of the applicable agency) shall ensure that updated information with respect to the information described in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

“(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—

“(1) FUNDS.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

“(A) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

“(i) of budget authority appropriated;

“(ii) that is obligated;

“(iii) of unobligated balances; and

“(iv) of any other budgetary resources;

“(B) from which accounts and in what amount—

“(i) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

“(ii) outlays are made for each program activity;

“(C) from which accounts and in what amount—

“(i) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

“(ii) outlays are made for each object class; and

“(D) for each program activity, the amount—

“(i) obligated for each object class; and

“(ii) of outlays made for each object class.

“(2) BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘budget justification materials’ means the annual budget justification materials of an agency that are submitted, in conjunction with the budget of the United States Government submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, but does not include budget justification materials that are classified.

“(B) INFORMATION.—The information to be posted shall include any budget justification materials—

“(i) for the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and each fiscal year thereafter; and

“(ii) to the extent practicable, that were released for any fiscal year before the date of enactment of this paragraph.

“(C) **FORMAT.**—Budget justification materials shall be posted under subparagraph (B)—

“(i) as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(ii) in a manner that enables users to download individual reports, download all reports in bulk, and download in bulk the results of a search, to the extent practicable; and

“(iii) in a structured data format, to the extent practicable.

“(D) **DEADLINE.**—The budget justification materials required to be posted under subparagraph (B)(i) shall be posted not later than 2 weeks after the date on which the budget justification materials are first submitted to Congress.

“(E) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize an agency to destroy any budget justification materials relating to a fiscal year before the fiscal year described in subparagraph (B)(i).”

(b) **INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.**—Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make publicly available on a website, and continuously update, a tabular list for each fiscal year of each agency that submits budget justification materials, which shall include—

“(A) the name of the agency;

“(B) a unique identifier that identifies the agency;

“(C) to the extent practicable, the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are first submitted to Congress;

“(D) the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are posted online under section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006;

“(E) the uniform resource locator where the budget justification materials are published on the website of the agency; and

“(F) a single data set that contains the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) with respect to the agency for all fiscal years for which budget justifications of the agency are made available under section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 in a structured data format.

“(2)(A) Each agency that submits budget justification materials shall make the materials available on the website of the agency, in accordance with the policies established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under subparagraph (B).

“(B) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish policies for agencies relating to making available materials under subparagraph (A), which shall include guidelines for making budget justification materials available in a format aligned with the requirements of section 3(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 and using a uniform resource locator that is in a consistent format across agencies and is descriptive, memorable, and pronounceable, such as the format of ‘agencyname.gov/budget’.

“(C) If the Director of the Office of Management and Budget maintains a public website that contains the budget of the United States Government submitted under subsection (a) and any related materials, such website shall also contain a link to the tabular list required under paragraph (1).

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘budget justification materials’ has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Federal

Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.”

SEC. 3. 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 submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before us, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act, is a commonsense, good government measure every Member should support.

It would require the congressional budget justification documents that agencies prepare for congressional committees to be posted online in a centralized, searchable database.

This would make these detailed plain-language explanations of how agencies plan to spend taxpayer dollars more accessible to the public.

I thank Representatives MIKE QUIGLEY and DOUG COLLINS for their work on this bill.

Representative QUIGLEY, in particular, has a long history as a strong advocate of transparency in the operations of the Federal Government.

Representative QUIGLEY is the founder and chair of the bipartisan Congressional Transparency Caucus, which shines a light on the importance of government transparency and accountability.

This legacy of championing good government stems from his time serving as Cook County Commissioner where government reform was one of his major legislative priorities.

H.R. 4894 builds on the work of the committee to improve government transparency by allowing the public to more easily learn how Federal agencies spend their taxpayer dollars.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4894, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.

The Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act is a long overdue reform to ensure that the Congress and the public can understand the full scope of the Federal budget.

This bipartisan bill will make it possible for the public and every Member of Congress to readily find and compare the annual budget justification and supporting materials that each agency prepares and sends to Congress.

Taxpayers should know how agencies plan to spend their hard-earned money.

Last year, the Federal Government spent more than \$4.4 trillion.

We have transparency tools like USAspending.gov to track Federal spending after Congress appropriates taxpayer dollars.

However, the annual Federal agency budget justifications provide detailed and plain-language explanations of how agencies plan to spend congressionally appropriated funds.

In other words, an agency Congressional Budget Justification provides the necessary details in context to actually understand how agency missions connect to eventual Federal spending.

Currently, agencies send these plans directly to congressional appropriators.

However, if the rest of us wish to review these valuable government budget materials, we are left to manually search through hundreds of individual agency websites.

H.R. 4894 solves this problem by requiring the budget justifications of every agency be publicly available at a central, single website.

The bill would require the Office of Management and Budget to provide a comprehensive list of each agency’s budget justification with a stable link to where the documents are published on agency websites.

This way Congress and the public can know that they are looking at the complete picture of the budget request materials.

Each agency would also be required to publish their materials at a consistently named web address to further simplify the public’s discovery of these budget documents.

The bill would also require the U.S. Treasury to centrally publish all materials themselves on USAspending.gov as open data.

USAspending is a current one-stop shop for the public to find information on how the government is using their tax dollars.

It tracks all Federal spending activity, as required by the 2014 DATA Act, which is an example of the strong bipartisan work the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and Congress has accomplished in the past.

Adding congressional budget justifications to USAspending.gov for future generations will provide greater context to Federal spending information.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss without mentioning another interesting benefit of the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.

Thanks to another law that the House Oversight and Reform Committee has previously produced in the last Congress, the 2018 Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act, congressional budget justifications also list unimplemented inspector general audit and GAO report recommendations.

Therefore, H.R. 4894 will also centralize documents containing valuable IG and GAO recommendations for the public and Congress to easily find.

This will empower better oversight over a sprawling and complicated Federal Government. I hope we can continue to find ways to continue building on such good government reforms in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I likewise, urge passage of H.R. 4894, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4894, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CHARGING HELPS AGENCIES REALIZE GENERAL EFFICIENCIES ACT

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2193) to require the Administrator of General Services to issue guidance to clarify that Federal agencies may pay by charge card for the charging of Federal electric motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2193

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 “Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act” or the “CHARGE Act”.

SEC. 2. PAYMENT BY CHARGE CARD FOR CHARGING FEDERAL ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—
(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services;

(2) the term “charge card”—
(A) means a card, plate, coupon book, or other means existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services; and

(B) includes—
(i) a card issued under the GSA SmartPay program; and

(ii) a Fleet Services card;

(3) the term “covered electric motor vehicle” means a passenger carrier that is—

(A) a passenger motor vehicle; and
(B) an electric motor vehicle;

(4) the term “electric motor vehicle” has the meaning given the term in section 601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13271);

(5) the term “electric motor vehicle charging station” means a battery-charging station that permits the transfer of electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other storage device in an electric motor vehicle; and

(6) the terms “Federal agency” and “passenger carrier” have the meanings given those terms in section 1344(h) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance to clarify that each Federal agency may, in accordance with section 1344 of title 31, United States Code—

(1) charge a covered electric motor vehicle at a commercial electric motor vehicle charging station; and

(2) pay for a transaction described in paragraph (1) with a charge card.

(c) ISSUANCE OF CHARGE CARDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue to each Federal agency a charge card for each covered electric motor vehicle of the Federal agency that may be used by an officer or employee of the Federal agency to pay for charging the covered motor vehicle in accordance with the guidance issued under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. 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 materials on the measure before us.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senators GARY PETERS and ROB PORTMAN for their bipartisan work on this com-

monsense, forward-thinking measure, as well as Congressman RO KHANNA and ANTHONY GONZALEZ for championing a companion bill in the House.

The SmartPay Program operated by the General Services Administration is the world’s largest commercial payment program, serving over 560 Federal entities. It also is used for the fuel, maintenance, and repair of the government-wide commercial fleet.

□ 1500

With that size and reach comes impact and opportunity. SmartPay actively supports the goal of incorporating electric, hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles into this fleet, yet it is not clear that it can be used to pay for charging electric vehicles.

S. 2193 would reinforce this goal by requiring GSA to issue guidance clarifying that authorized Federal employees can pay for charging electric vehicles using SmartPay, just as they can for refueling conventional motor vehicles.

The Federal Government must lead the way in embracing technology and innovations that address society’s gravest threats. Climate change is at the top of that list, challenging us all to do better.

If we can rise to this challenge by investing in strategic industries, workforce training, and solutions, we can rise from this crisis as a safer, stronger, more prosperous Nation.

I am firmly committed to cutting-edge, solutions-oriented policies that support our progress toward a Federal fleet of the future that is clean, green, and efficient.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud S. 2193 for its important contribution toward this goal, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of S. 2193, the Charging Helps Agencies Realize General Efficiencies Act, or CHARGE Act.

The CHARGE Act would direct the General Services Administration to allow Federal employees to use official Federal travel charge cards to pay for electric vehicle recharging at commercial charging stations.

This simple change would help Federal Government employees take greater advantage of Federal electric motor vehicle fleet vehicles while traveling for official business.

By ensuring the government can utilize expanding commercial charging stations, we can help drive down costs to the taxpayer and avoid the need for the government to buy and maintain more electric vehicle charging stations.

If Federal employees must use their travel charge cards to refuel their traditional vehicles, they should also be allowed to use these same cards to refuel or charge their electric vehicles.

This is a commonsense and easy step toward modernizing the Federal Government and granting more flexibility to Federal employees.