The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Cuellar).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, September 24, 2020.
I hereby appoint the Honorable Henry Cuellar 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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 10:50 a.m.

REMEMBERING AMARI PRESIDENT
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Cunningham) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Amari President.
Amari was only 16 years young when he passed, but his wisdom was already far beyond his years. Despite being too young to vote, he knew the importance of his civic duty to hold public officials accountable and to be involved in his local community.

That involvement brought Amari into my life when he attended one of my very first townhalls and left me with a question. In my subsequent conversations with Amari, it was clear that his leadership and vibrancy were going to take him to big and wonderful places in life.

Anyone who was lucky enough to know Amari knew he had dreams that were big but achievable for someone as bright and determined as he. You just knew Amari would find a way to achieve every single one of them, especially living up to his name and becoming a U.S. President one day. And he would have my vote.

Beyond his ambition, his family knew Amari as compassionate, empathetic, and driven to serve others. Amari wanted to spread kindness and joy wherever he went. He went the extra mile to be a beacon of light and share his warmth through a big grin.

His 16 years have left an incredible imprint on the Lowcountry, and his legacy will be found in every heart that knew Amari touched, including mine.

I mourn this tragic loss with his family, his classmates, and the massive community that was blessed to know Amari and his greatness.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Joyce) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during National Small Business Week, I join with my fellow Americans in honoring workers, entrepreneurs, and the small business community.

From farms and factories to shops and cafes, small businesses employ hardworking Americans and provide important goods and services to their neighbors. In Pennsylvania and around the country, small businesses are not only the backbone of our economy, they are the heart of our communities.

This year, they have faced extraordinary challenges. During the coronavirus crisis, many small businesses, following Federal, State, and local mandates, have been forced to radically change the way they do business or even temporarily close their doors.

As jobs were put into jeopardy, Congress quickly acted to provide targeted relief to American families, workers, and small businesses. Under the CARES Act, the Paycheck Protection Program was enacted in record time. This unprecedented program served as a vital lifeline to millions of small businesses. Already, the Paycheck Protection Program has saved more than 50 million jobs across our country. For those workers and their families, this policy is personal.

Just last weekend, I stopped by Boyer Orchards in Bedford County. As I was waiting to buy their famous apples, I had the opportunity to speak to the Boyer family, and all who work for them tirelessly to keep this family business running.

Like many farms and orchards, they had tough choices when they lost business during the coronavirus shutdown, through no fault of their own; but, thankfully, they had the support to make ends meet and, most importantly, to keep their hardworking team on the payroll.

The Boyer family attributes the Paycheck Protection Program with helping them weather the storm, and they even called this program a godsend.

Today, I am happy to report that the orchard is open and business is booming and the apples are plentiful. I can confirm that they were well worth the wait.

As we celebrate the success of the Boyer family, I also recognize that
there are small businesses that are still struggling under the burdensome State and local mandates.

The deadline to apply for Paycheck Protection Program support has, unfortunately, passed, and yet too many businesses remain closed or restricted. Some small business leaders are wondering how long they can survive. And, frankly, if we do not act, we risk losing them permanently.

Most of our small businesses have been built by hardworking families over many generations. Will Congress let this be their end? Will we allow families on Main Street to be used as bargaining chips in Washington?

Mr. Speaker, we cannot permit small businesses to be wiped out by a virus. This is a time for choosing, and we in Congress must put politics aside and extend a lifeline to the American small businesses.

Congressman STEVE CHABOT, the top Republican on the House Small Business Committee, has introduced commonsense legislation that would reopen the Paycheck Protection Program, free up over $137 billion of unspent funds, and extend this program until the end of this year. This plan makes sense, and I encourage every Member of Congress to support it.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is to plan for the unexpected. While many circumstances beyond our control remain uncertain, Congress has an opportunity to offer small businesses security, and, most important, we have the chance to offer hope to these hardworking Americans.

As my friend Congressman CHABOT said earlier this week, our economy is depending upon America’s small businesses, and American small businesses are depending on us.

This Small Business Week, there are livelihoods that are on the line. American families are counting on us. American workers are counting on us. It is time that we deliver for them.

REPUBLICANS ARE FAILING THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am going to make some comments, but I want to just briefly remark about the gentleman from Pennsylvania’s remarks about the PPP.

That program was, of course, a bipartisan program that was negotiated between Mr. CARDED, Mr. RUBIO, and Mrs. VELOCITY, the chair of the Small Business Committee here, who played a role.

We passed the HEROES Act. We are 4 months-plus from passing the HEROES Act, and the Senate has taken no action.

Now, one could say, well, the Senate hasn’t taken action because they cannot get the votes of the Democrats for a bill that we believe is woefully inadequate. I didn’t hear the gentleman talking about those people in food lines or the families who need that payment of $1,200 and dollars for children. I didn’t hear him say anything about the testing capability so we can stop this virus.

I do not criticize him for mentioning the CHOBAT bill. I will tell my friends on the Republican side, I am hopeful that they are going to get the opportunity to vote either for an agreement between Secretary Munchin and Speaker PELOSI and Senator SCHUMER and others who choose to participate in the negotiations.

I am very hopeful that we will have either an agreement or a bill that we can pass that I hope everybody on this floor votes for, which will deal with the problems I mentioned, with the challenges the gentleman from Pennsylvania mentioned. But, of course, the response to HEROES was, from the Republican leader in the Senate: Let the States go bankrupt.

I don’t know whether anybody has any thoughts on, if the States go bankrupt, the impact that that will have on the fight against COVID–19. I think it would be substantial, including cities and localities and counties.

So we have to plan for the unexpected. While many circumstances beyond our control remain uncertain, Congress has an opportunity now to offer small businesses security, and, most important, we have the chance to offer hope to these hardworking Americans.

As my friend Congressman CHABOT said earlier this week, our economy is depending upon America’s small businesses, and American small businesses are depending on us.

This Small Business Week, there are livelihoods that are on the line. American families are counting on us. American workers are counting on us. It is time that we deliver for them.

In February, President Trump told the American people that the virus, like a miracle, would disappear. He called criticism of his response to the virus a hoax. More than 200,000 Americans have now died from that hoax. There has been no miracle. This Administration keeps failing and keeps contradicting our health providers and our experts.

Based on our population, Mr. Speaker, if we had the same fatality rate for COVID–19 as Australia—listen, my friends, this is not the same fatality rate for COVID–19 as Australia, fewer than 11,000 Americans would have died, if we had had the same success rate. If we had had the same rate as Japan, fewer than 5,000 Americans would have lost their lives.

Yet our President says we have handled it the best of anybody in the world. The facts, of course, do not interfere with his conclusions.

At the Democrat-led House passed the HEROES Act in May—May 15, to be exact—more than 4 months ago. More than 110,000 Americans have died of COVID–19 during the 4 months that President Trump and the Republicans blocked the HEROES Act from helping us defeat this pandemic.

In that same period, President Trump, who in 2011 criticized President Obama for playing golf, in that same period, President Trump left the White House to play golf 30 times—fiddling while Rome burned. That is eight times per month on average.

What did President Trump say when asked in August about the rising fatalities? “It is what it is.”

How recklessly irresponsible, how callous and dismissive of people’s pain, and how indicative of a lack of decency and leadership.

At the same time, President Trump and congressional Republicans have been working hard to eliminate access to affordable healthcare for millions of Americans and remove protections for more than 133 million people with preexisting conditions. And they say, of course: Oh, no. We are for preexisting conditions. We are just trying to get rid of the law that gives protection for preexisting conditions.

Their lawsuit to overturn the Affordable Care Act comes amid a deadly pandemic worsened by their own failures.

For 4 years, President Trump and Republicans have been promising to unveil a secret plan that they say covers everybody. The President said: I am going to cover everybody—lower cost, higher quality.

We have seen no such plan in 3 years and 8 months of this Presidency. That is because there is no Republican healthcare plan. They tried one early on. It failed. It failed because they couldn’t get a Republican vote—John McCain, who thought it wasn’t a real bill.

As a matter of fact, the President, who hailed the bill at the White House as the most wonderful thing in the world, 2 weeks later, said: It was a mean bill.

There is only the unyielding drive to get rid of the Affordable Care Act and
Mr. Speaker, we have been working every day. We passed hundreds of bills. Minimum wage. You are on your own. Violence against women. You are on your own. Equality for all Americans. You are on your own. Voting rights for Americans. You are on your own. Sitting una2ordinated on MITCH MCCONNELL’s desk.

Mr. Speaker, America is struggling, and what we ought to be doing is working together. And I am hopeful, as I said, in the next 5 to 6 days we get either an agreement or a bill passed in this House that the Senate will pass. I am for either one of those options, but we must take one of them.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF ROSE BAYUK

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish happy birthday to Rose Bayuk, who turns 105 on November 2. Rose served as a nurse during World War II and dedicated much of her life to caring for the sick.

She grew up in Buhl, Minnesota. In 1938, Rose graduated from Kathier School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota. Her diploma was signed and presented to her by the famous Mayo brothers themselves.

Upon graduating, she moved to California to begin her career. Shortly after moving, Pearl Harbor was attacked, and Rose decided to serve her country by enlisting in the Army Nurse Corps.

During the war, Rose made several crossings across the Atlantic on an English ocean liner, bringing home wounded from Italy, France, and North Africa.

After her service, Rose continued a life of service by becoming a school nurse, and eventually the head of a nursing home.

Rose now lives in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, where she stays active by going to the gym and playing bridge.

Rose, thank you for your incredible service to our country, and I wish you the happiest of birthdays.

CELEBRATING LIFESTONE HEALTH CARE

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, during National Small Business Week, I rise to honor Dr. Chiamaka Enemuoh, the owner of Lifestone Health Care, a business located in Proctor, Minnesota, that is dedicated to providing compassionate and reliable medical care for clients in a home-like setting.

Lifestone opened in 2014 as a 2,000-foot house with five employees. Thanks to the strong leadership of its owner, Dr. Enemuoh, Lifestone staff and capacity doubled by 2016, allowing them to serve more in the community. In addition to her work at Lifestone, Dr. Enemuoh is a mentor to young African-American women in the community and volunteers much of her time at organizations like the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and African Women’s Group.

Due to the valuable services this business provides to the Northland and the dedication of Dr. Enemuoh, the Small Business Association recently named Lifestone Health Care as the 2020 Minnesota Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year.

Thank you to Dr. Enemuoh and the entire staff at Lifestone Health Care for providing excellent healthcare to the residents of Minnesota’s Eighth Congressional District. Your commitment to our community serves as an inspiration to all.

Mr. Speaker, entrepreneurs like Dr. Enemuoh are absolutely invaluable to our society. And as we continue to celebrate Small Business Week, we must also reinforce our commitment to empowering entrepreneurs like Dr. Enemuoh who create jobs, provide valuable services, and help drive our economy.

A MESSAGE ON THE PASSING OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mr. Speaker, during National Small Business Week, I rise with a message on the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg that I shared with my beloved synagogue, Congregation T’chiyah, on Zoom during Saturday’s Rosh Hashanah service just before we said the Mourner’s Kaddish.

We have to resist what may be our first impulse over the loss of Justice Ginsburg, the horror of it. When people die, it is hard to step back from their circumstances. The circumstances of their death, in order to imbibe the lesson of their life, isn’t it? Especially in circumstances like this.

Instead, let us consider this woman. A tiny person. A modest person. A young wife who helped her husband with his schoolwork, only turning to her own in the middle of the night. A woman who, nevertheless, finished at the top of her law school class. A brilliant lawyer no law firm would hire because she had ovaries, and heaven forbid, was a mother.

A person then pushed into teaching and given the space for advocacy. The system, by discriminating against her, set up a mighty campaign to fell discrimination.

The very architect of the assault against legal discrimination against women who, following in the footsteps of Thurgood Marshall, the lawyer, not the Justice, carelessly disassembled the wall excluding women from all manner of rights, brick by carefully chosen brick.

The appeals court judge who was not President Clinton’s first choice to join the Supreme Court, but who blew him with her charisma, anti-chauvinism, her directness, lack of artifice, and legal brilliance so plain that it shone Sun-like.
For nearly three decades, a Supreme Court Justice who hammered out brave decisions and dissents that shone a light toward the future of dignity and justice for all, for which we all long, and on these High Holy Days we reaffirm faithfully is a possible and, indeed, a real world.

A teacher-Justice, who crafted these decisions in a manner not only meant to make law in the moment, but to teach future Justices, lawyers, and the general public how law and power function in the real world.

In the end, the Justice-turned-icon, Notorious RBG, the most unlikely rock star, whose seeming diminutive frailty was the falsest thing about her, hiding a will of steel, that galloping mind, and a glint in her eye that told every girl: I am with you; and indeed: You are me; we are one.

Why must we breathe in the full measure of this person before we turn to the tragedy of her death at this incredible low point in the history of our Nation? Why can’t we just turn with anxiety and determination to the next fight, the fight over RBG’s replacement? Because in pausing to appreciate Ruth Bader Ginsburg fully, we see the importance of brilliant strategy and steely determination and good humor.

Reflecting on her astounding accomplishments, we realize that justice can win in the end. Amidst our tears, we realize we have no choice but to listen to her, to John Lewis, and others we have lost in a moment of turmoil when we need them most, to study their ways, pick up their tools, and march on towards justice.

You want a Rosh Hashanah that tests your faith? Try losing RBG to start things off. You want to make 5781 a year of hope and joy? Try taking immense pride in the outsize accomplishments of this tiny Jew and vowing to make her proud of us. Only then, after we immerse ourselves in prayer, reflection, and intention-setting, will we be fully ready to meet the coming moment.

IMF IN THE PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arkansas (Mrs. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Candace Frankes, who is retiring as the commissioner of the Arkansas State Bank Commission after 13 years in that top position and more than 40 years with the Arkansas State Bank Department. I am proud to have known and worked alongside Candace for over a quarter century.

Candace Frankes has been a trailblazer in many regards. Candace is the first woman to serve as the Arkansas bank commissioner in its 107-year history, the first professional bank regulator to serve in the position, and the longest serving commissioner as well.

During Candace’s many years of service, she has been a good steward for Arkansas’ funds. In 1980, when she began her career, the institutions under the Arkansas State Bank Department held $7 billion in assets. Today, they hold more than $123 billion.

In addition to her work as Arkansas bank commissioner, she serves as the chairman of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, a member of the State Board of Finance, a member of the Board of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

I thank Candace for her devotion.

HONORING LIFE OF FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American patriot, a great and good man, and a hero of mine, Brent Scowcroft, who passed away recently.

From humble roots, Brent rose to become an Air Force general, the National Security Advisor to two Presidents, and a statesman whose counsel was sought by policymakers of all political stripes.

After his passing, Brent’s family and friends held a ceremony to celebrate his life. They described Brent as an exceptional public servant who left an indelible stamp on U.S. foreign policy and on the National Security Council as an institution.

Brent’s contributions as National Security Advisor may be his primary legacy, but what I find most striking about the tributes to Brent are not what they say about him as a professional, but what they say about him as a person.

As Stephen Hadley put it: “There are few people in Washington who were as respected and revered as Brent Scowcroft.” That was not because of what he did . . . It was because of who he was. A true gentleman . . . much loved by all who had the privilege of working with him.

Both States noted that Brent was “tough as nails on matters he cared about,” but also “the most decent, kindest, and humble person I have ever known.”
These words resonate with me because I was one of the many people who had the honor to call Brent a role model and a friend. Brent served as a mentor to multiple generations of men and women who valued his wisdom and sought to emulate his example. I never met Brent during my sophomore and junior year of college when I interned at The Scowcroft Group, a firm Brent founded after leaving government.

I was assigned to write a piece on the prospect of Russia selling missiles to Cyprus. I remember gingerly asking Brent for guidance in the way a young nobody approaches a distinguished somebody, expecting to be brushed off. He couldn’t have been kinder, patiently walking me through the intricacies of the issue, telling me stories about his experience negotiating with the Soviets, and making me feel at ease.

It was these small acts of grace, repeated so many times, for so many people, that made Brent so special.

Our first meeting was the start of a lifelong friendship that I cherished. Brent took more joy in the success of others than in his own success, and he genuinely cared about me, my family, and my career.

I know how happy he was when his former intern became the first Vietnamese-American woman ever elected to Congress. It made me proud to make him proud.

In fact, it was Brent Scowcroft who is partially responsible for my decision to enter public service. As luck would have it, Brent gave the commencement speech at my college graduation. His message was about the importance of a strong but humble American leadership around the world. It was also about the value of public service, especially government service.

Brent’s words stirred something in me. I was raised in a family from Vietnam whose family’s life had been saved by the U.S. Navy. Brent’s speech made me realize that public service might be the best way for me to chisel away at the debt of gratitude I owed this country.

I recalled that speech after 9/11, when I left my private-sector job, went to grad school, and on to work at the Department of Defense. I also recalled that speech a decade later when I made what some might call a foolhardy decision to run for Congress. As luck would have it, Brent was devoted to his country, his family, and his friends. His legacy will be carried forward by the many people he taught, mentored, and inspired who provide public service. What better epitaph could there be? Rest in peace.

Promise of Operation Warp Speed

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Operation Warp Speed moves us closer to a cure for COVID-19. Thanks to President Trump, the administration, and the private sector, a viable vaccine is now within reach. Operation Warp Speed has proceeded at an unprecedented pace, and it reflects a profound level of urgency. It is a direct reflection of President Trump’s commitment to protecting the American people.

Taxpayers at the Federal level have committed over $10 billion to support the development of a vaccine, and the private sector has stepped up to meet this challenge head-on.

Keep in mind that many vaccines and their subsequent clinical trials can take many years to complete. Without a doubt, we are closer to eradicating COVID-19 thanks to Operation Warp Speed.

Pro-growth policies benefit Americans

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in a recent report released by the U.S. Census, it was revealed that the median household income in the United States rose by 6.8 percent in 2019. I want to repeat this: the median household income in the United States rose by 6.8 percent in 2019. This was the highest annual increase on record, and it is all thanks to the commonsense, pro-growth policies that are being proposed by Mr. Biden and congressional Republicans.

Not surprisingly, household incomes also grew 50 percent faster last year than the entire 8 years of the Obama administration.

The good news doesn’t stop there. New small business applications increased twice as much in President Trump’s first 2 years in office versus President Obama’s last 2.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite evident that pro-growth policies are the difference between inflating government bureaucracy and empowering American families. It is just that simple.

Speaker, on September 23, there was an article in The Washington Times titled “Trump creates jobs. Biden destroys them. It’s not complicated,” and I include in the Record the article.

Trump creates jobs. Biden destroys them.
It’s not complicated.

Trump’s record proves that he knows how to create a strong economy.

Donald Trump has proven that he knows what it takes to create jobs on a massive scale and ensure that prosperity is shared by all Americans. Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden doesn’t even know how many legs are in the world.

President Trump’s record proves that he knows how to create a strong and growing economy that generates enormous opportunities for all Americans. It is the only way to succeed prior to the artificial contraction caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the national unemployment rate had been consistently hovering at a 50-year low, and joblessness had reached the lowest level ever recorded for both black and Hispanic workers.

The president’s pro-growth economic policies played a major role in helping the strongest economy in history, which was a particularly impressive feat after eight years of stagnation under the Obama-Biden administration.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, for example, cut taxes for every income bracket, particularly benefitting middle-income Americans. The tax bill also created Opportunity Zones, driving tens of billions of dollars in new investment to historically underdeveloped communities in every state, providing jobs, housing, and infrastructure necessary to revive these communities.

Mr. Trump’s emphasis on targeted deregulation has also made it easier and more efficient for businesses to create jobs with business ventures in this country. In 2012, halfway through the Obama-Biden era, federal regulations were placing a massive burden on the small businesses that account for almost half of all jobs in this country, costing an average of $11,724 each year in regulatory compliance costs for each new employee they hired. The Trump administration slashed tens of billions of dollars worth of harmful, job-killing regulations, saving American households over $3,000 per year on average. Mr. Biden, however, is planning to replace these effective policies and replace them with even more crippling taxes and regulations than before, particularly on middle-income Americans.

His proposals to eliminate entire industries such as fracking and increase the federal minimum wage to $15 per hour would be a blow to small- and medium-sized businesses that are only just getting back on their feet after months of pandemic-related lockdowns.

We don’t have to take him at his word, though. Mr. Biden, a man who has spent nearly half a century in Washington, has a long history of supporting job-killing policies such as the North American Free Trade Agreement that cost Americans over a million jobs. Mr. Biden also supported normalizing trade relations...
with China, paving the way for the repressive communist country to secure membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO), leading to the loss of over 60,000 American factories and millions more blue-collar jobs.

The former vice president clearly has no idea how to manage an economy, and his extensive record of bungling the job as both a senator and as vice president proves it. Under the Obama-Biden administration’s job-kill ing policies, the American middle class experienced a double-whammy in the aftermath of the Great Recession, contributing to this country’s slowest economic recovery since World War II.

While Mr. Biden was still struggling to pinpoint how many letters are in the word “jobs,” former President Obama entrusted him to manage the administration’s eco nomic recovery agenda—and it turned out to be a miserable failure. President Trump turned things around in a hurry once he took office, and he’s already working the same magic as he orchestrates a “V-shaped” recovery from the artificial coronavirus downturn. Results matter, and Donald Trump is the only candidate with a proven track record of delivering the sort of results the American people need.

CELEBRATING 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP PENDELTON

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Camp Pendleton’s 78th anniversary.

In 1942, the Marine Corps began construction on a new base north of Camp Elliott in San Diego. When it was ready, the 9th Marine Regiment marched north from Camp Elliott to the new base at the former Rancho Santa Margarita.

On September 25, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt named the base Camp Pendleton in honor of World War I Major General Joseph H. Pendleton.

As a key amphibious training base, Camp Pendleton is crucial to the Marine Corps in advancing and sustaining the readiness of operations forces. Since World War II, Camp Pendleton has served as a major training base used by Marine forces before deploying into combat, and I am proud of the role that they have played in defending our country.

After the horrific attacks on September 11, Camp Pendleton provided crucial training to the Army, Army National Guard units, and allied forces, who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Camp Pendleton isn’t just a military base; it is a vital part of our community throughout the 49th District. The military families and veterans who live on and around the base make our district special. And I am proud to serve them in Congress.

Those families are also just one of the reasons why serving on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee is so important to me.

I have made the well-being of our veteran and servicemembers one of my top priorities in Congress. They have sacrificed for our freedom, and it is our responsibility to honor that sac rifice by supporting them in civilian life.

Once again, I am honored to represent Camp Pendleton and the families who call it home.

Happy birthday, Camp Pendleton.

HONORING DON CORAM

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Coram of Montrose, Colorado.

Don was born in Montrose and raised in a farming and ranching family. He has been married to his wife, Dianna, for 53 years. Together, they have a son, Dee.

Don’s agricultural background provided him with a thorough understanding of the unique needs of the communities on the Western Slope that led him to be a successful businessman and a well-respected elected official.

Don began his career in public service first as a county commissioner, later serving in the Colorado State House and, most recently, as a Colorado State senator.

At the Colorado Capitol, he has extensive influence in crafting legislation to preserve and protect water rights, bringing resources to local agencies to more effectively prevent and combat wildfires and revitalize investment into Main Streets across the State. Don consistently works with his colleagues across the aisle on commonsense policies, which has earned him high marks from legislators from all four corners of the State.

Don’s leadership, experience, and knowledge of rural interests and needs have made him a trusted adviser to me, and he has doubt improved the lives of thousands of families and businesses and communities throughout western Colorado.

While he would never admit it, Don is a role model for others. For decades, he has selflessly supported local causes by serving on the school board, the Delta-Montrose Vocational Center, volunteering for nonprofits, and actively participating with several other local organizations.

Don’s efforts to serve his community reach all the way to Washington. He has been a trusted adviser to me on numerous pieces of legislation and always puts thoughtfull consideration in any time I ask for his input. Don has been a great leader for the Third District during my tenure in Congress, and he is personally a good and loyal friend.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my utmost praise to Don for his compassionate service to our great State and the Nation over the years, and I wish him and his wife, Dianna, the best as they continue their work to be able to improve the quality of life in communities throughout the West Slope.

HONORING DIANNA CORAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. Kuster) for 5 minutes.

HONORING DIANNA CORAM

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dianna Coram of Montrose, Colorado, for her lifelong service to her community and to the State of Colorado.

Born during the middle of a blizzard on her grandfather’s farm, Dianna is a third-generation Coloradan who truly embodies the unique spirit of western Colorado.

Dianna has been a loving wife for over 53 years to her husband, Don, with whom they have one son, Dee. Her husband, Don, noted to me that, of those 53 years, 33 of those years have been happy.

Dianna spent most of her adult life building a reputation as a respected figure in Delta and Montrose, where she spends much of her time strengthening and improving her community through her dedicated volunteer work with nonprofits, the local school, county fairs, and organizations such as the Dolphin House, the Boys & Girls Club, Downtown Improvement Group, the San Juan Cancer Center, and currently serves as the Third Congressional District representative on the Colorado State Fair Board.

Dianna’s reputation reaches far beyond the West Slope. If you visit the Colorado State Capitol and mention the name Dianna Coram, legislators and staff from both sides of the aisle will give a smile and be quick to share a story of her.

Dianna is always front and center in the political arena within the Third District, where she has been active since the young age of 14. It was then she could very well have been the only person of her age to be found walking the streets of Montrose with a “Barry Goldwater for President” sign.

A few years back, when the Montrose Chapter of Republican Women’s future was at stake, Dianna stepped forward as soon as their president resigned. Since then, her work has paid dividends where, just this past year, it was the only chapter in Colorado to receive the Gold Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Dianna for her hard work for her community. Like so many others who have had the privilege to be able to know her, I will always be grateful for her friendship to my wife, Jean, and me.

Her service to the State of Colorado and the Third Congressional District is truly appreciated by so many who have gotten to know her over the years. I stand with the residents of Montrose in congratulating Dianna for her achievements, and I look forward to her continued success as a community leader.

WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CAUSE OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH SYNDROME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. Kuster) for 5 minutes.
Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of legislation we considered earlier this week, the Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act.

More importantly, today I rise in the memory of my great-niece, Lia, who died from SIDS just 2 years ago. As her mother and grandmother, my sister, said: Our family will never be the same.

Lia is with me in my heart and in the work we do in Congress every day. She turned out to be a formidable advocate at just 6 months of life.

Each year, roughly 3,500 infants tragically die from sudden unexpected death in the United States, impacting families across this country in unimaginable ways.

While the incidence of SIDS has declined by more than 50 percent since the 1990s, we still have so much work to do to better understand the cause of sudden unexpected death syndrome and advance research that can develop prevention strategies and further reduce infant mortality in America.

The legislation that the House passed this week, the Scarlett’s Sunshine on Unexpected Death Act, is a comprehensive approach to improving national guidelines and data consistency for sudden infant death and sudden unexpected death for children.

It also offers support for the families grieving their loss and supports evidence-based approaches for outreach to decrease risk factors.

I am a proud sponsor of this bill for my great-niece Lia, and I am pleased to see the House advance this important legislation this week.

HONORING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and commemorate the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the “Notorious RBG.”

As Americans across the country mourn this tremendous loss, we look back on the amazing life and extraordinary career that so clearly shaped the world we live in today.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a trailblazer for gender equality, a brilliant jurist who wrote some of our country’s most important legal opinions, and a fierce defender of women’s rights. Her presence, her grace, indeed, her courage on the Court will be missed by all who cherished her advocacy.

As a trailblazer to serve on the highest court in the land, Justice Ginsburg inspired a generation of women—my generation—to join her efforts in creating a more perfect union and combating injustice that lurked in every corner of this country.

From authoring the Court’s opinion in landmark cases that struck down laws discriminating against women to issuing blistering dissent in cases like Ledbetter v. Goodyear, where she believed the Court was failing to address pay discrimination in the workplace, Justice Ginsburg’s voice on the Supreme Court impacted the life experiences of so many American women.

Justice Ginsburg led a full and meaningful life, and her chapter in American history will be earmarked for generations to come. It is now up to all of us to complete the work unfulfilled and, in her words: “Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to do the same.”

Justice Ginsburg has passed the torch, and now it is up to us.

RESTORE, REBUILD, RENEW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, our country has undoubtedly been rocked by coronavirus. The pandemic has put a strain on our physical, mental, and financial health.

As time has passed, it has been easy to focus on the negative; however, I am encouraged by the work I have seen from my House Republican colleagues.

Instead of playing partisan politics, I have seen a commitment to America. I have seen a concerted effort to renew the American Dream, restore our way of life, and rebuild the greatest economy ever.

America is worth fighting for, and while the pandemic is currently at the forefront of our minds, there is a bright future ahead of us all. We will rise from this crisis with the resilience, the grit, and the determination of the American people.

Renewing the American Dream can mean a lot of different things. To me, it starts with two things: broadband connectivity and a capable, trained workforce.

In 21st century America, reliable connectivity is something many of us take for granted. Just like flipping the switch to turn on your lights, we have come to expect reliable, fast, uninterrupted access to the internet.

Still, many communities across the country don’t have reliable broadband connectivity, particularly in rural America.

In time, the coronavirus will be a thing of the past, but our national need for reliable broadband connectivity is not going anywhere. Connectivity impacts every aspect of our lives: commerce, education, healthcare, precision agriculture, and more. We can and must invest in this critical infrastructure.

We must also invest in career and technical education opportunities.

Just prior to the pandemic, there were nearly 7 million job openings across the country. Contrasting that figure with the potential of our Nation’s learners, whether they are entering the workforce for the first time, learning a new skill, or reentering the workforce after some time away, there is an obvious disconnect. This is often referred to as the “skills gap,” and CTE is a proven way to bridge this divide.

A one-size-fits-all approach to education is not an effective way to prepare students for the workforce, and CTE should not be viewed as plan B. It is a valuable educational option that empowers learners of all ages to take control of their personal and professional futures.

Restoring our way of life includes defeating this virus and keeping America healthy. Thanks to President Trump’s leadership, Operation Warp Speed has placed us light-years ahead in researching, developing, and administering a coronavirus vaccine. The President has unleashed the power of the private sector to partner with the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Department of Defense, to help eradicate the virus.

Prior to the pandemic, we had built the greatest economy this country has ever seen, and we will rebuild it. We have done it once, and we can do it again with America-first trade policies and a strong supply chain—that means a strong manufacturing sector that helps America stay competitive—and supporting legislation that strengthens the supply chain and bolsters our Nation’s potential for a prosperous future by keeping good-paying, family-sustaining jobs right here at home.

Now I am confident that we can and will defeat this virus and renew the American Dream, restore our way of life, and rebuild our economy.

JUSTICE FOR BREONNA TAYLOR

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Mr. Speaker, and still I rise in the name of justice for Breonna Taylor.

Mr. Speaker, it has been widely reported that the death of Breonna Taylor is a tragedy. Her death is being reported as a tragedy: a tragedy because she was innocent; a tragedy because it happened in her home in the midnight hour; a tragedy because she was unarmed. It has been reported that her death was a tragedy.

But there is a question, Mr. Speaker, about her death that we have to ask that few want to hear, because few want to consider the answer. But this is the preeminent question as it relates to her death, a question that will haunt us because of the history that we have with race relations in this country.

We have to ask the question. It is a question that the status quo doesn’t want to hear, because the status quo is concerned about the answer. It is a question that deals with systemic discrimination.

Today I ask the question of Breonna Taylor: a 26-year-old innocent White woman—innocent White woman—who was killed in the middle of the night when Black police officers intruded into her home,
would her death be a tragedy or a crime?

☐ 1000

HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDEEP DHALIWAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mr. Yoho) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sheriff Sandeep Dhaliwal who was tragically and senselessly killed in the line of duty last year, September 27, 2019.

Dhaliwal was the first observed Sikh to serve in Harris County Sheriff's Office and was the first Sikh American in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to wear articles of faith, including his turban and beard, while serving.

His story is an American story. Born in India, he moved to Houston, Texas, at an early age with his parents. He started a successful business but felt called to serve and build better relations and understanding between the Sikh and all greater-Houston communities.

He was a beloved husband, father, and son who selflessly served others and was a role model to all who knew him. Like many of the brave men and women in law enforcement who put on the uniform to protect and serve communities across our great Nation, Deputy Sandeep Dhaliwal is a hero. HONORING THE LIFE OF SGT. ERIC TWISDALE

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Clay County Sheriff Sergeant Eric Twisdale who passed away due to complications from COVID-19.

Anyone who knew Sergeant Twisdale said he was committed to serving the community. Throughout his 28 years of active service, he showed that commitment and was rewarded, receiving several awards, including the Lifesaving Award in 2014 for saving a person from drowning.

He was honored as the 2015 Deputy of the Year for displaying exceptional valor while helping stop two murder suspects during a high-speed chase through several counties.

There is a common thread that runs through our Nation’s law enforcement community: courage, and selfless service to others.

Sergeant Twisdale most certainly possessed both in abundance. He is survived by his children, many grandchildren, and family members.

I urge Sergeant Twisdale for his service and for keeping our community safe. He will be missed.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF MIDDLEBURG VA CLINIC

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the critical work being done by our VA heroes and veterans in Florida’s Third Congressional District, and specifically to congratulate the opening of the new Middleburg VA Clinic.

On September 15, the Middleburg VA Clinic opened to patients. The clinic is vital for the health and well-being of so many veterans who call Clay County home.

Before the state-of-the-art facility opened, I introduced a bill with the entire Florida delegation that would name this clinic after Naval Chief Petty Officer Andrew Baker, a former Clay County resident and American hero who lost his life while serving our country.

During these turbulent times, we must never forget to honor those who serve and protect our fellow citizens and the Constitution from enemies both foreign and domestic.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ON NUMBER 6 RANKING FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud Florida Gator. In the last “Best Colleges” edition of the U.S. News & World Report, the University of Florida was named the number 6 public university in the country. This ranking marks the fourth— I want to repeat that, that ranking marks the fourth—consecutive year the University of Florida has risen in the rankings for public universities, jumping from number 14 in 2017 to number 6 today.

UF is one of the finest research universities in the United States, attracting the best and brightest from around the great State of Florida, America, and the world.

I want to congratulate President Kent Fuchs, his staff, the faculty, student body, and the board of trustees for their collective efforts in continuing to elevate the University of Florida to higher and higher rankings.

And I can’t end without saying: Go Gators.

SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank my support for our Nation’s first responders and law enforcement officials.

On September 14, we witnessed the assassination attempt of two Los Angeles County sheriff deputies in Compton, California.

Just yesterday, we saw two more attacked in Louisville. As I speak on this floor, the 31-year-old female and 24-year-old male deputies who were brutally ambushed, thankfully, have been released from the hospital.

The uncertainty in the country yesterday, hopefully, will survive also. The support from across the country for these heroes is inspiring, even as the left-wing radicals shouted obscenities outside the hospital and yelled they hoped the officers would die.

While the President pursues noble action through peace accords in the Middle East, the Democratic Party cannot find its voice in admonishing domestic terrorists targeting our brave law enforcement officers across the country.

I stand with the President, with our law enforcement, and with the foundation of this country— respect for life, defense of liberty, and the protection of property.

SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HORSFORD). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express support for our Nation’s public schools system. Particularly, our K-12 institutions that are grappling with a frightening reality.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has posed an unprecedented threat to our schools and without additional further assistance, they cannot afford to take necessary safety measures to reopen.

For example, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report, districts need to test or replace HVAC systems in at least half of their school buildings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified proper ventilation as a key consideration for schools seeking to reopen safely.

Today, it has been 6 months since New York City Public Schools and many others across the Nation were shuttered. The decision to close our schools was necessary and slowed the disease’s spread, saving lives.

However, I understand this was a difficult decision for many families because of the vital support services that schools provide. Not only is the school system where young people learn, but they also serve as a vital community anchor, providing nutritional assistance, special education, teacher support, and childcare.

We all want schools to reopen for our students, but it must be done safely, and that requires additional Federal resources.

In March, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES Act, were signed into law. Both measures help address the urgent challenges facing every part of our education system. These funds help educators adjust to long-term school closures, fund purchases for online learning materials, and provide a lifeline for public schools.

While the relief bills enacted so far took steps in the right direction, the magnitude of this pandemic demands more. Four months ago, the House passed the HEROES Act which will go even further. Without the HEROES Act, budget shortfalls are projected to reach nearly $500 billion for State governments alone.

The President’s action has resulted in no relief for State and local governments, which are now being forced to make deep cuts to public education. Without significant Federal funding, our schools cannot upgrade buildings, provide PPE, continue virtual or blended learning, and, ultimately, safely reopen.

As the public health crisis has worsened since the passage of the HEROES
Act, the amount of funding needed to repair and modernize school facilities for the safe reopening has grown. My colleagues and I are now fighting for $300 billion to safely reopen our schools and maintain services for students.

Today, I am calling on the Senate to act in a timely and comprehensive manner to ensure the safety of our students, educators, staff, and families. We must guarantee the academic achievement and basic development needs of our youth. However, we must also care for the safety and the mental and physical health of our students, educators, staff, and families.

At every level of government, we must do more for our teachers, our school administrators, and the families who depend on critical services provided by our public school system. That is why the Senate needs to stop obstructing and pass meaningful legislation for our Nation’s families.

PROMOTING FARM AND AGRICULTURAL WORKER SAFETY

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

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of bipartisan legislation, the Farm and Agricultural Worker Safety Education Act, which I am proud to introduce with my friend from Texas (Mr. Cuellar).

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need to ensure that we have a safe and reliable workforce to maintain our food supply. In order to win the battle with COVID–19, we must guarantee that the most up-to-date and science-based information is available and accessible for community leaders, educators, and rural businesses.

Our legislation will help guarantee that timely, relevant health and safety guidelines are reaching our rural workforce and communities by allowing higher learning institutions to apply for grants to distribute best practices and safety guidance to help farms, ag workers, and others who conduct business during this pandemic.

When we think about best practices and safety in the rural areas, we often think about tractor accidents and how to stop the farmers from being hurt in grain bin incidents and things of that nature. We haven’t really delved into this idea that we have to look at the health of our employees, the workers who are in the packing plants, the folks driving the trucks, the people at the distribution plants, and the people on the farms.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER BLAKE CRULL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sixth District hero Officer Blake Crull.

Officer Crull was on a routine patrol when he saw a flipped car on fire. He sprang into action and ran toward the danger. With no regard for his personal safety, Officer Crull saved a woman from the burning car, which exploded mere moments later.

Brave acts such as Officer Crull’s are the very reason I will always back the Second Amendment, that Americans have the right to keep and bear arms, and that shall not be infringed.

Mr. Speaker, America is worth fighting for. This is our commitment to America.

AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Soybean Association centennial celebration. One hundred years ago, the American Soybean Association was started in my home State of Indiana at Soyland Farms in Camden. Today, the association advocates for our great soybean farmers while promoting the growth of the U.S. soybean industry, a thriving Hoosier asset and industry.

Congratulations to the association on its 100th year. As a supporter of the agriculture industry, I wish them the best of luck in the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING FUTURE OF WORK

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Future of Work initiative in Muncie, Indiana, for its leadership in the 21st century workforce development.

The Future of Work organization includes Innovation Connector, Ivy Tech Community College, Ball State University, Purdue Polytechnic, Muncie-Delaware County Economic Development, Muncie Community Schools, Eastern Indiana Works, Ball Brothers Foundation, and East Central Indiana Regional Partnership.

It is paving the way for students and jobseekers to prepare for careers in technology, engineering, and manufacturing. I thank Future of Work for helping young Americans develop skills to join the 21st century workforce.

SUPPORTING SECOND AMENDMENT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my proud support of the Second Amendment.

The Constitution affords the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and that shall not be infringed.

As a lifetime member of the NRA, I understand what it is like to have your constitutional rights attacked. We take a look at the riots, looting, and danger right here on our own front doorsteps, and we see that the ability to protect our families and ourselves has never been more important.

As the Representative from Indiana’s Sixth District, I promise to uphold the Constitution.

APPLAUDING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S SUPPORT OF FARMERS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Trump administration’s commitment to our great American farmers.

This week, the USDA announced $14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs due to COVID–19.

President Trump made a promise to put American farmers first, and he is doing just that. This commitment to farmers has helped the hardworking Sixth District Hoosier farmers who have been impacted by this pandemic. Our ag community feeds this Nation, and I applaud the Trump administration’s unwavering support.

SUPPORTING PPP FOR SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, of the many excellent provisions in the
CARES Act, which was passed by this body, undoubtedly one of the most successful was the PPP, the Paycheck Protection Program, which literally helped thousands of small businesses and over 50 million jobs were saved during the pandemic. The PPP was also successful because it partnered with the private sector, utilizing local banks to disburse the PPP loans. Often these banks already had existing relationships with the small businesses in their communities. These existing relationships between banks and small businesses were invaluable in getting these funds out onto the street in record speed—again, saving thousands of businesses and millions of jobs. In my district alone, PPP saved over 50,000 jobs.

It is due to the success of the PPP and the significant need for additional PPP funds for small businesses around the nation that I rise in support of H.R. 8265, sponsored by Representative Chabot. This is a very commonsense piece of legislation. You see, Mr. Speaker, there are approximately $130 billion in unspent PPP funds. This bill simply enables the Small Business Administration to do another round of PPP awards. There is still incredible demand and need for this program. So this is not an allocation of additional money.

As both sides debate a much larger and more complicated new stimulus package, I think this bill is a great first step. It is a program that has shown itself to be incredibly effective in saving jobs and small businesses. There is most definitely more demand for PPP funds for the small businesses and local nonprofits. The model of awarding the funds has shown itself to be excellent. Finally, it doesn’t require an additional appropriation.

Mr. Speaker, our small businesses are fighting for their survival, and millions of jobs hang in the balance. We can do this. This money is there, and the program works.

UPDATING AMERICA’S ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O’HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 4447, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act. I am proud that this bill was used as a shell for this legislation.

This legislative package is the work of over 40 critical pieces of energy and environment legislation from the 116th Congress. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH) at 11 a.m.

This legislative package is the work of over 40 critical pieces of energy and environment legislation from the 116th Congress. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH) at 11 a.m.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

RECESS

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord, Father of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day. At a time when so many are worried about business survival, rent payment, and unemployment benefits, impel those in our government who are charged with promoting the general welfare to come together to negotiate solutions benefitting all Americans in need.

Pour forth Your spirit of wisdom, patience, and good will upon all the Members of Congress during these troubling
days for so many of our Nation’s citizens. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Eshoo) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ESHOO 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.

HONORING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning on behalf of the people of California’s 18th Congressional District to pay tribute to the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Inscribed on the front of the building of the Supreme Court are the words: “Equal justice under the law.” And that is what Justice Ginsburg did. She brought equality relative to voting rights, to gender equity, to civil rights. That was her work. She took it seriously using her extraordinary intelligence, her faith, her belief in a more perfect union.

We pay tribute to her in a unique way. In history, there are very few individuals that are known by their initials: FDR, LBJ, JFK, and now RBG.

As the poet wrote: And so she passed...We look for in a Parliamentarian. That is what we look for in a Parliamentarian. That is what we ask for, and that is exactly what you gave us.

Thank you for your service, and we appreciate all that you have done for this Nation.

HONORING OUR BRAVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

(Mrs. MILLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Nation’s brave law enforcement officials who protect our communities from violent crime.

Just weeks ago, in West Virginia, a volunteer firefighter, Calvin Endicott, was nearly to help fight off the attacker.

Because of Mr. Endicott’s actions, Deputy Garretson was able to go home that night. Sadly, this is not the case for many officers in our country.

Our country was founded on ideals that promote civility and security for all Americans. We need to unify around a shared goal of law and order, to stop the rioters and anarchists who burn our cities and threaten our law enforcement.

I will always stand with our brothers and sisters in uniform.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHRISTAL ALBRECHT

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness and joy; sadness because our leader at Alvin Community College, ACC, Dr. Christal Albrecht, announced she will retire as our incredible president on August 31 of next year; joyful because of the 7 amazing years she gave us as our president.

She arrived as our sixth president in May of 2014. She came aboard with a great school; she leaves an even greater school.

She was able to corral groups like faculty, students, donors, who sometimes have a break with the herd mentality. She put through a 5-year strategic plan with these groups. All those goals will be finished when she leaves.

Her trademark is listening; asking students, What do you want to do with your life, or asking industry, What do you need from your employees? Christal met every challenge head-on.

And I will close with one final challenge. Alvin’s mascot is a dolphin named Blue. Our challenge, on behalf of the students, faculty, and lovers of ACC, is Christal Albrecht to wear this mascot’s uniform, for a game or a day on campus before you leave. Thank you. God bless you.
HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS ANTONELLI

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Louis Antonelli, an amazing husband, father, grandfather, and someone who served his community and his church with love and with compassion.

Louis loved to serve, and he took pride in his work as a member of the New York City FOP and in his service on the board of the South Beach Civic Association.

And although he was no stranger to tragedy with the loss of his beloved son, he never lost his joy or his passion for others. He loved to entertain guests, and when they would come and visit, you would never find him without a smile, a piece of candy, or some kind word to share.

He will be missed, but he will never be forgotten. My heart goes out to Angela, his adoring wife of over 60 years, his two daughters, and his five grandchildren. Mr. Antonelli, we will never forget your memory.

REMEMBERING DR. SAM E. SCOLARO

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight in memoriam the legacy of Dr. Sam Scolaro, a respected pillar in Florida 15th District’s medical community, and a devoted husband and loving father who kept his promise to God to serve his patients until the day he died, a promise fulfilled when COVID-19 took his life in August.

Dr. Scolaro graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1963, earned his undergraduate degree from USF, and completed his medical education at Rush Medical College in Chicago in 1967.

For 48 years, he served in many community roles while caring for patients, including as president of both the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and the Brandon Children’s Help Center, and as a Brandon Hospital founding member.

His mark on our community will not be forgotten.

Dr. Scolaro extended his passion for medicine and helping others by mentoring generations of medical students. To his beloved wife of 53 years, Janie, and his two daughters, Stephanie and Jennifer, our district and community mourn the loss of Sam. May his memory and sacrifice be a reminder of his love for family and community. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

RECOGNIZING USDA FOREST SERVICE OFFICIAL CHARLES MORTON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I rise today to recognize the loss of USDA Forest Service official Charles Morton who died while fighting the El Dorado fire in the San Bernardino National Forest last Thursday in southern California.

Charlie began his career as a corpsman with the California Conservation Corps at the Butte Fire Center in Magalia, California, up in my area, where the Camp fire was known to have raged through there in 2018. No doubt some of the work that he and his colleagues did in the area of Magalia then saved a portion of Magalia in what they did.

During the 2006 fire season, he worked with Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression in Chico, California. His 14-year forest service culminated as a Big Bear, California, Interagency Hot Shot Squad Boss in San Bernardino National Forest.

Charlie’s untimely passing is a risk that is, unfortunately, part of what our valiant firefighters and forest service workers deal with on the front lines every day. I pray that his family will find peace.

I also pray for the firefighters across the West right now risking it all to save our public lands, property, families, and wildlife from wildfire season.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4447) to establish an energy storage and microgrid grant and technical assistance program, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Each further amendment printed in part B of House Report 116–528 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 1129, shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of House Report 116–528, not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or his respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 offered by Ms. STEVENS of Michigan.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, as the designee of Mr. PALLONE, pursuant to House Resolution 1129, I offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 14, 15, 18, 23, 24, 26, 29, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 49, 50, 54, 64, 69, 72, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 94, and 98, printed in...
part B of House Report 116-539, offered by Ms. STEVENS of Michigan:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS. ANNE OF IOWA

Page 328, line 2, strike ‘‘industrial applications’’ and insert ‘‘industrial applications, including at biofuel facilities’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Page 9, after the item relating to section 12906, insert the following:

SEC. 12906. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES—CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION.

(a) GOALS.—Section 902 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16181) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

‘‘(5) decreasing the environmental impact of energy-related activities, including by deeply reducing emissions; and

‘‘(6) improving energy-sector resilience to climate events and disasters.’’;

(b) EMISSIONS DEFINED FOR GOALS.—Section 902 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16181) is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(e) EMISSIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘emissions’ means greenhouse gas emissions or other pollutants.’’;

(c) EMISSIONS REDUCTION.—Section 911 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16191) is amended—

(1) in the heading by inserting ‘‘AND EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS’’ after ‘‘ENERGY EFFICIENCY’’;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ‘‘and emissions reductions’’ after ‘‘energy efficiency’’; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ‘‘, and reducing emissions from’’, after ‘‘efficiency’’; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending the matter preceding subparagraph (A)(i) to read as follows:

‘‘(A) cost-effective technologies for new construction and retrofit, to improve the energy efficiency and environmental performance of, and reduce emissions from buildings, using a whole-buildings approach, including onsite clean energy generation and beneficial electrification.’’; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

‘‘(C) advanced technologies to improve the energy efficiency, environmental performance, and process efficiency of, and reduce emissions from industry, especially energy-intensive and waste-intensive industries;’’; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(f) EMISSIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘emissions’ means greenhouse gas emissions or other pollutants.’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Page 9, after the item relating to section 12906, insert the following:

SEC. 12907. STUDY ON EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS OF CLEAN ENERGY.

(a) FRONTLINE COMMUNITY.—In this section, the term ‘‘frontline community’’ means a community with significant representation of communities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal and indigenous communities, that experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to undertake a study on technical and non-technical barriers to and solutions for ensuring equitable distribution of the benefits associated with clean energy in frontline communities across all sectors of the economy, and in particular the role of the Department of Energy in assessing and mitigating such barriers. The study shall—

(1) assess the state of research on the equitable distribution of the benefits of clean energy including workforce development and job creation;

(2) assess the progress in implementing programs and policies that result in increased adoption of clean energy technologies in frontline communities;

(3) identify the potential incentives and mechanisms to achieving the equitable distribution of the benefits associated with clean energy in frontline communities, including consideration of social, behavioral, regulatory, policy, market, and technology aspects, and considerations of the characteristics of individual communities, such as geographical location, average income, and racial-ethnic composition; and

(4) recommend research areas for the Department of Energy to make progress towards ensuring equitable distribution of the benefits associated with clean energy in frontline communities.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. COX OF CALIFORNIA

Page 229, after line 7, insert the following (and redesignate paragraph (22) as paragraph (23)):

(22) Durable, low-cost solar-powered sensors, equipment, and machinery for off-grid use, with special consideration for agricultural applications, such as solar powered aquaculture monitoring and irrigation systems.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. DOUGETT OF TEXAS

Page 383, after line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 3115. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY ON CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study evaluating the efficacy of carbon capture and storage technology by industry in reducing emissions and the cost-effectiveness of such technologies. Such study shall include a description of the following:

(1) Analysis of the effectiveness of emissions reductions and cost through implementation of carbon capture as compared to transitioning to other low-emissions technologies.

(2) Differences in performance of various carbon capture technologies and storage methods, including the net amount of carbon dioxide that can be permanently sequestered, the cost (in terms of dollar per ton captured/sequestered) of each technology, and the potential cost of emissions of carbon dioxide captured/sequestered and lower operational costs.

(3) Barriers, in terms of cost, infrastructure, geology, aquifers, and markets, to ensuring permanent carbon storage including both point of source capture and removal from the atmosphere of captured carbon dioxide.

(4) Analysis of the lifecycle emissions associated with carbon capture technologies, including construction and operation of the carbon capture technology, as well as transport, processing, and injection of carbon dioxide, including the permanence of carbon storage and sequestration, and strategies to reduce those emissions. This should include the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from a facility outfitted with carbon capture technologies that is permanently sequestered compared to the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the carbon capture process itself.

(5) The evaluation of the impact of carbon capture technologies on air pollution, including particulate emissions and ozone precursors, with specific analysis on the impacts on communities historically overburdened with pollution, including rural communities.

(b) REPORT.—The agreement under subsection (a) shall specify that, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress a report containing the results and findings of study authorized under this section.

Page 5, in the table of contents, after the matter related to section 3114, insert the following:

Sec. 3115. National Academy of Sciences study on carbon capture technology.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR OF TEXAS

Page 223, lines 18 through 21, strike paragraph (2) and insert the following:

The term “institution of higher education”—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); and

(B) includes a minority-serving institution.

(3) The term “minority-serving institution” has the meaning given the term “eligible institution” in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1076(q)).

Page 223, line 22, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (4).

Page 223, lines 1 and 4, redesignate paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6).

Page 225, after line 20, insert the following:

(S) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—In respect to applications under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall give special consideration to applications from minority-serving institutions or a multi-institutional consortium which includes a minority-serving institution.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1207. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR NON-OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.

Section 4(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1333(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(1) JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF:’’;

‘‘(A) IN GENERAL.—The Constitution and laws and civil and political jurisdiction of the United States are extended, to the same extent as if the outer Continental Shelf were an area within jurisdiction of the United States, to the extent within a State, including—

‘‘(i) the subsoil and seabed of the outer Continental Shelf;

‘‘(ii) all artificial islands on the outer Continental Shelf;

‘‘(iii) all installations and other devices permanently or temporarily attached to the..."
seabed, which may be erected thereon for the purpose of exploring for, developing, or producing resources therefrom or producing or supporting the production of energy from sources within the outer Continental Shelf, which may be erected thereon for the purpose of transporting such resources or transmitting energy.

"(iv) any such installation or other device (other than a ship or vessel) for the purpose of transporting such resources or transmitting energy.

"(B) LEASES ISSUED EXCLUSIVELY UNDER THIS ACT.—Mineral or energy leases on the outer Continental Shelf shall be maintained or issued only under the provisions of this Act."

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

Page 707, line 3, after "cost-competitive" insert "insert", including those developing economies, 

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. LAMM OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 432, after line 15, insert the following:

Subtitle C—FUSION ENERGY RESEARCH

SEC. 4301. FUSION ENERGY RESEARCH.

(a) Program.—Section 307 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18645) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (g) as subsections (b) through (h), respectively;

(2) by inserting before subsection (b), as so redesignated, the following:

"(a) Program.—As part of the activities authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7323) and section 972 of the Energy Policy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 16312), the Director shall carry out a fusion energy research and enabling technology development program to effectively address the scientific and engineering challenges to building a competitive fusion power industry in the United States. As part of this program, the Director shall support research activities to expand the fundamental understandings of the plasma and matter at very high temperatures and densities for fusion applications and for other plasma science applications;",

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) INERTIAL FUSION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall carry out a program of research and technology development in inertial fusion for energy applications, including laser, beam, laser, and pulsed power fusion systems.

"(2) ACTIVITIES.—As part of the program described in paragraph (1), the Director shall support activities at and partnerships with universities and the National Laboratories to—

"(A) develop novel target designs;

"(B) support modeling of various inertial fusion energy concepts and systems;

"(C) develop diagnostic tools; and

"(D) improve inertial fusion energy driver technologies.

"(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of funds authorized to be appropriated under section (o), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the activities described in subsection (e)(6) of this Act—

"(A) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

"(B) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

"(C) $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

"(D) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and

"(E) $125,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

"(4) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

"(e) ALTERNATIVE AND ENABLING CONCEPTS.

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall support research and development activities and facility operations at institutions of higher education, National Laboratories, and private facilities in the United States for a portfolio of alternative and enabling fusion energy concepts in order to provide solutions to significant challenges to the establishment of a commercial magnetic fusion power plant, prioritized based on the ability of the United States to play a leadership role in the international fusion research community.

"(2) ACTIVITIES.—Fusion energy concepts and activities explored under paragraph (1) may include—

"(A) alternative fusion energy concepts, including—

"(i) advanced stellarator concepts;

"(ii) non-tokamak confinement configurations operating at low magnetic fields;

"(iii) magnetized target fusion energy concepts; or

"(B) other promising fusion energy concepts identified by the Director.

"(B) enabling fusion technology development activities, including—

"(i) high magnetic field approaches facilitated by high temperature superconductors;

"(ii) liquid metals to address issues associated with the inner wall of the encasing device; and

"(iii) advanced blankets for heat management and fuel breeding; and

"(C) advanced scientific computing activities.

"(3) INNOVATION NETWORK FOR FUSION ENERGY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Science, shall support a program to provide fusion energy researchers with access to scientific and technical resources and expertise at facilities supported by the Department, including such facilities at National Laboratories and universities, to enhance and diversify scientific and engineering of fusion and plasma physics.

"(B) AWARD.—Financial assistance under the program established in subsection (a) may be in the form of grants, vouchers, equipment loans, or contracts to private entities.

"(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (o), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the activities described in subsection (e)(6) of this Act—

"(A) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

"(B) $105,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

"(C) $110,250,000 for fiscal year 2023;

"(D) $115,760,000 for fiscal year 2024; and

"(E) $121,551,000 for fiscal year 2025.

"(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) MILLENNIUM-BASED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Using the authority of the Secretary under section 466(g) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7265(g), notwithstanding paragraph (10) of such section, the Secretary shall establish, within 3 months of enactment of this Act, a millennium energy development program that requires projects to meet particular technical milestones before a participant is awarded funds by the Department.

"(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program established by paragraph (1) shall be to support the development of a U.S.-based fusion power industry through the research and development of technologies that will enable the construction of new full-scale fusion systems capable of demonstrating significant improvements in the performance of such systems, as defined by the Secretary, within 10 years of the enactment of this Act.

"(3) ELIGIBILITY.—Any entity is eligible to participate in the program if the Secretary has determined that the project proposed by the entity can be accomplished within the time period that the Secretary has determined is necessary to achieve the requirements of the program.

"(4) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the milestone-based program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, for each relevant project—

"(A) set milestones based on a rigorous technical review process;

"(B) set milestones based on a rigorous technical review process; or

"(C) award funding of a predetermined amount to projects that successfully meet proposed milestones under paragraph (1), or for expenses deemed reimbursable by the Secretary, in accordance with terms negotiated for an individual award; and

"(D) communicate regularly with selected eligible entities and, if the Secretary deems appropriate, exercise small amounts of flexibility for technical milestones as projects mature.

"(5) AWARDS.—For the program established under paragraph (1)—

"(A) an award recipient shall be responsible for all costs until milestones are achieved, or reimbursable expenses are reviewed and verified; and

"(B) should an awardee not meet the milestones described in paragraph (4), the Secretary may end the partnership with an award recipient and use the remaining funds in the ended agreement for new or existing projects carried out under this section.

"(6) REPORTS.—Any project proposal submitted to the program under paragraph (1) shall be evaluated based upon its scientific, technical, and business merits through a peer-review process, which shall include reviewers with appropriate expertise from the private sector, the investment community, and experts in the science and engineering of fusion and plasma physics.

"(7) PROJECT MANAGEMENT.—In carrying out projects under this program and assessing the completion of their milestones in accordance with paragraph (4), the Secretary shall consult with experts that represent diverse perspectives and professional experiences, including those from the private sector, to ensure a complete and thorough review.

"(8) PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW.—Not later than 4 years after the Secretary has established milestones under this program, the Secretary shall enter into a contractual arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to review and provide a report describing the findings of this review to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the program established under this paragraph (1) that assesses—

"(A) the benefits and drawbacks of a milestone-based fusion program as compared to traditional program structure funding models at the Department;

"(B) lessons-learned from program operations, and

"(C) any other matters the Secretary determines regarding the program.

"(9) ANNUAL REPORT.—As part of the annual budget request submitted for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the program established under this paragraph (1) during the previous fiscal year.

"(10) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (o), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the purposes described in paragraphs (9) and (10) of this section—

"(A) the benefits and drawbacks of a milestone-based fusion program as compared to traditional program structure funding models at the Department;

"(B) lessons-learned from program operations, and

"(C) any other matters the Secretary determines regarding the program.
or the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy.

(3) Implementation.—The Secretary shall implement the recommendations made by the Director in the report required under section (2) upon transmission of the report to Congress.

(4) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the activities described in this section—

(1) $975,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;
(2) $1,035,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;
(3) $1,043,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;
(4) $1,181,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and
(5) $1,264,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

(b) ITER.—Section 972(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1612) is amended to read as follows:

(1) United States Participation in ITER—

(1) in general.—There is authorized United States participation in the construction and operations of the ITER project, as agreed to under the April 23, 2007 Agreement on the Establishment of the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization for the Joint Implementation of the ITER Project. The Director and the Director of the Office of Science shall ensure that the responsibilities of the United States with respect to this Agreement.

(2) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report providing an assessment of the most recent schedule for ITER that has been approved by the ITER Council at.

(9) Authorization of Appropriations.—Out of funds authorized to be appropriated under section 307(o) of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 16845), there shall be made available to the Secretary to carry out the construction of ITER.

(10) MILESTONE-BASED DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

(1) Findings of study.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the findings of the study under subsection (a), the National Academies shall—

(2) opportunities for reprocessing of produced water on site; and

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, continue to leverage United States participation in ITER, and prioritize expanding international partnerships and investments in current and future fusion research facilities within the United States; and

(3) to the maximum extent practicable, prioritize with other appropriate collaborative efforts in support of future international capabilities that would provide access to the most advanced fusion research facilities in the world, including ITER.

(12) INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION.—The Director shall—

(1) as practicable and in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies as necessary, ensure the access of United States researchers to the most advanced fusion research facilities and research capabilities in the world, including ITER.

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, continue to leverage United States participation in ITER, and prioritize expanding international partnerships and investments in current and future fusion research facilities within the United States; and

(3) to the maximum extent practicable, prioritize with other collaborative efforts in support of future international capabilities that would provide access to the most advanced fusion research facilities in the world, including ITER.

(14) FUSION AND FUSION RESEARCH COORDINATION REPORT.—

(1) in general.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report addressing opportunities for coordinating fusion energy research and development activities between the Office of Nuclear Energy and the Office of Science.

(2) Components.—The report shall assess opportunities for collaboration on research and development of—

(A) liquid metals to address issues associated with fusion plasma interactions with the internal wall of the enclosing device and other components within the reactor;

(B) immersion blankets for heat management and fuel breeding;

(C) computational methods and codes for instrumentation and control;

(D) computational methods and codes for system operation and maintenance;

(E) code development; and

(F) radioactive waste handling;

(G) radiological safety;

(H) potential for non-electricity generation applications of fusion energy.

(1) any other overlapping priority as identified by the Director of the Office of Science or the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy.

(1) effective systems for on-site management or repurposing of produced water; and

(2) new technologies or approaches to reduce the environmental impact of produced water to local water sources and the environment.

(c) Conduct of Program.—In carrying out the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall carry out research and development activities to pursue—

(1) improved efficiency, technologies, and techniques for produced water recycling stations; and

(2) B alternative approaches to treating, removing, storing, or decontaminating produced water.

(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.

SEC. 2564. PRODUCED WATER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish a demonstration program for on-site treatment of produced water.

(b) Requirements.—In developing the demonstration program under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency.

(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. LARSEN OF WASHINGTON

At the end of title F of subtitle II, add the following:

SEC. 2. STUDY ON CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION EFFORTS.

(1) in general.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to in this section as the “National Academies”) to conduct a study on climate change mitigation efforts with respect to the civil aviation and aerospace industries.

(b) study contents.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the National Academies shall—

(1) identify climate change mitigation efforts, including efforts relating to emerging technologies, in the civil aviation and aerospace industries;

(2) develop and apply an appropriate indicator for assessing the effectiveness of such efforts;

(3) identify gaps in such efforts;

(4) identify barriers preventing expansion of such efforts; and

(5) develop recommendations with respect to such efforts.

(c) reports.—

(1) findings of study.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary enters into an agreement for a study pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the findings of the study.

(2) Assessment.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary submits the findings pursuant to paragraph (1),
the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains an assessment of the findings.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for this section $1,500,000.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the congressional committees determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION EFFORTS.—The term ‘climate change mitigation efforts’ means efforts, including the use of technologies, materials, processes, or practices, that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

Page 9, after the item relating to item section 12606, add the following:

SEC. 12607. LOW-DOSE-RADIATION RESEARCH

At the end of subtitile F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12607. LOW-DOSE-RADIATION RESEARCH.

Section 306(c) of the Department of Energy Research and Development Act (42 U.S.C. 18644(c)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(c) LOW-DOSE-RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a research program on low-dose and low-dose-rate radiation to—

(A) enhance the scientific understanding of, and reduce uncertainties associated with, the effects of exposure to low-dose and low dose-rate radiation; and

(B) inform integrated risk-assessment and risk-management methods with respect to such radiation.

‘‘(2) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the program required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) support and carry out the directives under section 106 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 18001 note), with respect to low dose and low-dose-rate radiation research, in coordination with the Physical Science Subcommittee of the National Science Foundation.

(B) identify and, to the extent possible, quantify, potential monetary and health-related impacts to Federal agencies, the general public, and the research community; and

(C) leverage the collective body of knowledge from prior and existing low-dose and low-dose-rate radiation research.

‘‘(D) engage with other Federal agencies, research communities, and potential users of information generated under this section, including institutions performing or utilizing radiation research, medical physics, radiology, health physics, and emergency response measures; and

‘‘(E) support education and outreach activities to disseminate information and promote public understanding of low-dose radiation, with a focus on non-emergency situations such as medical physics, space exploration, and naturally occurring radiation.

(3) RESEARCH PLAN.—

(A) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to carry out a strategic and prioritized research agenda for the program described in paragraph (2);

(B) CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the research plan developed under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(4) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—

(A) INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL ENTITY.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall enter into agreements with an independent external entity to perform a program evaluation.

(B) CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit the results of any program evaluation performed under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) LOW-DOSE RADIATION.—The term ‘low-dose radiation’ means a radiation dose of less than 100 rem.

(B) LOW-DOSERATE RADIATION.—The term ‘low-dose-rate radiation’ means a radiation dose rate of less than 5 millirem per hour.

(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to subject any research carried out by the Secretary for the program to any limitations described in section 977e(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16171(e)).

(7) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the program under this subsection—

(A) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

(B) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

(C) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

(D) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 894, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12607. ONLINE PUBLICATION OF GREEN-HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make freely available on a public website, with respect to the previous year—

(1) information that describes for each fossil fuel operation that is subject to the mineral leasing laws or title III or V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (30 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.), regardless of size, including production, storage, gathering, processing, transportation, and handling operations;

(A) the aggregate amount of each fossil fuel, by type and by State, produced on Federal leases; and

(B) for gas reported, the portion and source of such amount that was released or disposed of by each of venting, flaring, and fugitive release; and

(2) information that describes the amount and sources of energy, in delivered megawatt hours, produced from operating solar, wind, hydropower, nuclear, and geothermal projects on public lands; and

(b) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the program under this subsection $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. POWELL OF FLORIDA

Page 475, after line 13, insert the following:

‘‘(g) UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES.—In carrying out the program under section (a), the Secretary shall support research and development on underground transmission and distribution lines. Such research shall include—

(1) methods for improving the resilience and reliability of underground transmission and distribution lines, including through novel installation techniques and materials considerations;

(2) methods to improve the lifespan of underground transmission and distribution lines;

(3) wireless sensors to improve safety of underground transmission and distribution lines and to predict, identify, detect, and transmit information about degradation and faults; and

(4) methods for improving the resilience and reliability of underground transmission and distribution lines, and the impact of underground transmission and distribution lines, as part of the energy grid, on the milk supply and seasonal climates on degradation of and damage to underground transmission and distribution lines.

Page 475, line 14, strike ‘‘(1)’’ and insert ‘‘(h)’’.

Page 476, line 1, strike ‘‘(h)’’ and insert ‘‘(j)’’.

Page 476, line 4, strike ‘‘(i)’’ and insert ‘‘(j)’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MS. MUCARSEL-Powell OF FLORIDA

Page 188, beginning on line 11, strike ‘‘direct use for heating or cooling’’ and insert ‘‘consumption’’.

Page 467, beginning on line 14, strike ‘‘grid-enabled water heaters’’ and insert ‘‘grid-enabled water heaters, building heaters or coolers, electric vehicles, mini-pumped hydroelectric facilities, electrolysis processes that make hydrogen for transportation or industrial needs, or any other load shaping mechanism that includes energy storage’’.

Page 467, beginning on line 1, strike ‘‘direct use for heating or cooling’’ and insert ‘‘consumption’’.

Page 467, beginning on line 13, strike ‘‘grid-enabled water heaters’’ and insert ‘‘grid-enabled water heaters, building heaters or coolers, electric vehicles, mini-pumped hydroelectric facilities, electrolysis processes that make hydrogen for transportation or industrial needs, or any other load shaping mechanism that includes energy storage’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. PINGREE OF MAINE

Page 243, lines 17 through 22, amend paragraph (3) to read as follows:

To reduce the cost and risk of siting, permitting, construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of wind energy systems, including strategies and technology to reduce environmental and community impacts, including research and development that reduces impacts on existing
ocean uses and increases coordination be-
 tween offshore wind and existing users, in-
 cluding the commercial fishing industry, im-
 prove grid integration, and reduce regu-
 latory burden to better serve the public.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MR. GUDELY OF ILLINOIS
Page 894, after line 15, insert the following:

SEC. 12607. USE OF BIRD-SAFE FEATURES, PRACTICES, AND STRATEGIES IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(a) In General.—Chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 3319. Use of bird-safe features, practices, and strategies in public buildings

"(a) Construction, alteration, and acquisition of public buildings.—The Administrator shall incor-
porate, to the extent practicable, features, practices, and strategies to reduce bird fatality
resulting from collisions with public buildings for each public building—

"(1) constructed;

"(2) acquired; or

"(3) of which more than 50 percent of the facades are substantially altered (in the opinion of
the Commissioner of Public Buildings).

"(b) Design Guide.—The Administrator shall develop a design guide to carry out subsection
(a) that includes the following:

"(1) Features for reducing bird fatality re-
sulting in public buildings throughout all construction phases, taking into account the number of each such bird
fatality that occurs at different types of pub-
lic buildings;

"(2) Methods and strategies for reducing
bird fatality resulting from collisions with public buildings during the operation and main-
tenance of such buildings, including in-
stalling interior, exterior, and site lighting;

"(3) Best practices for reducing bird fatality
resulting from collisions with public build-
ings, including—

"(A) a description of the reasons for adopt-
ing such practices; and

"(B) an explanation for the omission of a
best practice identified pursuant to sub-
section (c).

"(c) Identifying Best Practices.—To carry out subsection (b)(3), the Adminis-
trator shall identify any best practices for reduc-
ing bird fatality resulting from collisions with public buildings, including best prac-
tices recommended by—

"(1) Federal agencies with expertise in bird
conservation;

"(2) nongovernmental organizations with
expertise in bird conservation; and

"(3) representatives of green building cer-
tification systems.

"(d) Dissemination of Design Guide.—The Administrator shall disseminate the design
guide developed pursuant to subsection (b) to all Federal agencies, subagencies, and de-
partments with independent leasing author-
ity for Federal property.

"(e) Update to Design Guide.—The Ad-
ministrator shall, on a regular basis, update
the design guide developed pursuant to sub-
section (b) with respect to the priorities of
the Administrator for reducing bird fatality
resulting from collisions with public build-
ings.

"(f) Exempt Buildings.—This section shall not apply to—

"(1) any building or site listed, or eligible for
listing, on the National Register of His-
toric Places;

"(2) the White House and the grounds of
the White House;

"(3) the Supreme Court and the ground-
s of the Capitol;

"(4) the United States Capitol and any
building on the grounds of the Capitol.

"(g) Certification.—Not later than Octo-
ber 1 of each fiscal year, the Administrator,
acting through the Commissioner, shall cer-
ify to Congress that the Administrator uses
the design guide developed pursuant to sub-
section (b) for each public building described
in subsection (a).

"(h) Report.—Not later than October 1 of
each fiscal year, the Administrator shall
submit to Congress a report that includes—

"(1) the certification under subsection (g); and

"(2) to the extent practicable, the number
of each such bird fatality that occurred as
a result of a collision with the public buildings
occupied by the respective head of each Fed-
eral agency.

"(i) Clerical Amendment.—The table of
sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by
adding at the end the following new sub-
chapter:

"3319. Use of bird-safe features, practices,
and strategies in public build-
ings.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MR. SCHWEIKERT OF ARIZONA
At the end of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3115. STUDY ON BLUE HYDROGEN TECH-
NOLOGY.

(a) Study.—The Secretary of Energy shall
conduct a study to examine opportunities for
research and development in integrating
blue hydrogen technology in the industrial
power sector and how that could enhance the
deployment and adoption of carbon capture
and storage.

(b) Report.—Not later than 1 year after
the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
retary of Energy shall submit to the Com-
mittes on Energy and Natural Resources of
the Senate and the Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
resentatives a report that describes the re-
sults of the study under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA
Page 247, line 23, redesignate paragraph (11)
as paragraph (12).

Page 247, line 23, insert the following:

"(11) Modeling and simulation tools to more
efficiently design, site, permit, manufacture,
construct, operate, maintain, and decommis-
sion wind energy systems.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. SHERILL OF NEW JERSEY
Page 252, line 3, insert "(including for air
traffic control, air defense, and weather de-
tection)" after "radar systems".

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS OF MICHIGAN
Page 593, after line 17, insert the following:

Subtitle G—Research and Development

SEC. 6701. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ALTERNATIVE FUEL.—The term "alt-
ernative fuel" means a fuel that is sustai-
nably produced and, or, that results in a signif-
ificant reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) emis-
sions, or other particulate or toxic emis-
sions, over the lifecycle of such fuel.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department"
means the Department of Energy.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary"
means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 6702. VEHICLE RESEARCH AND DEVEL-
OPMENT.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall con-
duct a program of research, development, and
demonstration activities on more effi-
cient and sustainable materials, tech-
nologies, and processes with the potential to
substantially reduce or eliminate petro-
leum from the manufacture, use, and the emis-
sions of the passenger and commercial
vehicles with lower cost of vehicle manufac-
turing and ownership, including activities in the areas of—

(1) electrification of vehicle systems;

(2) advanced batteries systems, ultracapacitors, and other competitive energy
storage devices;

(3) vehicle batteries and relevant systems, including—

(A) advanced batteries systems,
(B) the development of common inter-
carrier protocols, specifications, and ar-
chitecture for both transportation and sta-
tionary battery applications;

(C) improving energy density and capacity,

(D) design of power electronics and electric
motor technologies that enable efficient re-
cycling of critical materials; and

(E) other technically feasible areas for
power electronics and electric machine
advances.

(4) vehicle systems and components, includ-

(A) advanced batteries systems,
(B) electronic motors, including advanced
inverters and motors that can be used for

(C) improving partial load efficiency;

(D) imaging of electric motor technologies that enable efficient re-

(E) other technically feasible areas for
power electronics and electric machine
advances.

(4) electrification of vehicle systems;

(5) power electronics, electric machines,

(6) and electric machine drive systems, includ-

(A) advanced batteries systems,
(B) electronic motors, including advanced
inverter and electric machines that can be used for

(C) improving partial load efficiency;

(D) design of power electronics and electric
motor technologies that enable efficient re-
cycling of critical materials; and

(E) other technically feasible areas for
power electronics and electric machine
advances.

(5) power electronics, electric machines,

(6) and electric machine drive systems, includ-

(A) advanced batteries systems,
(B) electronic motors, including advanced
inverter and electric machines that can be used for

(C) improving partial load efficiency;

(D) design of power electronics and electric
motor technologies that enable efficient re-
cycling of critical materials; and

(E) other technically feasible areas for
power electronics and electric machine
advances.

(5) power electronics, electric machines,

(6) and electric machine drive systems, includ-

(A) advanced batteries systems,
(B) electronic motors, including advanced
inverter and electric machines that can be used for

(C) improving partial load efficiency;

(D) design of power electronics and electric
motor technologies that enable efficient re-
cycling of critical materials; and

(E) other technically feasible areas for
power electronics and electric machine
advances.

(5) power electronics, electric machines,

(6) and electric machine drive systems, includ-

innovative propulsion systems; and

• Vehicle fuel cells and relevant systems, including power electronics systems to regulate the fuel cell voltages;

• Synthetic fuels from recycled CO2 and net-zero carbon liquid fuels; and

• Advanced biofuel technologies;

• Aftertreatment technologies, aerodynamics, rolling resistance (including tires and wheel assemblies), accessory power loads of vehicles and associated equipment, friction and wear reduction, and lubricants for hybrid and electric vehicles;

• Vehicle weight reduction, including—

  • More sustainable and cost-effective lightweighting materials; and

  • The development of higher efficiency manufacturing processes to make sustainable lightweight materials and fabricate, assemble, and use dissimilar materials, including—

    • Lightweighted systems which combine several existing vehicle components; and

    • Voluntary, consensus-based standards for strategic lightweight materials;

• Improved vehicle recycling methods to increase recycling of recycled material content of feedstocks used in raw material manufacturing;

• Vehicle propulsion systems, including—

  • Engine and component durability;

  • Engine down-speeding;

  • Engine compatibility with and optimization for a variety of transportation fuels, including biofuels, synthetic fuels, and other liquid and gaseous fuels;

  • Advanced internal combustion engines;

  • Transmission gear and engine operation matching; and

• Advanced transmission technologies;

• Engine compatibility, modeling, and simulation of components, vehicle and transportation systems;

• Leveraging automation in both vehicle and infrastructure systems;

• Infrastructure, including—

  • Refueling and charging infrastructure for alternative fueled and electric drive or plug-in hybrid vehicles, including the unique challenges facing rural areas;

  • Extreme fast wired and wireless charging systems;

  • Integration, bidirectional capability, and operational optimization of vehicle electrification for light, medium, and heavy duty with the charging infrastructure and the grid; and

• Sensing, communications, and actuation technologies for vehicle, electric grid, and infrastructure, including—

  • Communication and connectivity among vehicles, infrastructure, and the electrical grid; and

  • Vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-pedestrian, vehicle-to-infrastructure structures;

• Retrofitting advanced vehicle technologies to existing vehicles;

• Energy system analysis to further understand the energy implications and opportunities of advanced mobility solutions, including—

  • Advanced vehicle technologies, including automation;

  • New mobility business models, real time information, transit, and micro mobility choices;

• Consumer travel decisions and e-commerce engagement, including travel behavior and potential strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled and the environment; and

• Goods movement and delivery interactions, including with car transport;
(g) **SECONDARY USE APPLICATIONS OF VEHICLE BATTERIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out a research, development, and demonstration program under this Act to:


(B) identifies possible uses of a vehicle battery after the useful life of the battery in a vehicle has been exhausted;

(C) conducts long-term testing to verify performance, life cycle, and other related technologies in the United States, including activities authorized under subsection (F) of this Act, the Secretary agrees to conduct a study on battery technologies to advance research toward a resilient and low-carbon transportation system and electric grid.

(E) assesses the potential for markets for uses described in subparagraph (B) to develop; and

(F) identifies any barriers to the development of those markets;

(G) identifies the potential uses of a vehicle battery—

(i) with the most promise for market development; and

(ii) that could aid in the development of a secondary market for vehicle batteries.

(2) **INITIAL USE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop guidelines for projects to demonstrate the secondary uses and innovative recycling of vehicle batteries.

(H) **PUBLIC PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(i) publish the guidelines described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) solicit applications for funding for demonstration projects.

(3) **PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall select proposals for Federal financial assistance under this subsection, based on an assessment of which proposals are mostly likely to contribute to the development of a secondary market for vehicle batteries.

(4) **STUDY TO EXAMINE BATTERY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1711 et seq.) to examine market, policy, and technology barriers to their development; and

(B) **RECOMMEND STRATEGIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES.**—The Secretary shall recommend strategic research priorities on technology pathways to develop affordable, safe, efficient, and effective long-lasting batteries to meet future transportation and energy storage demands.

(2) **REPORT.**—The agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall include a requirement that the National Academies, not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources a report on the results of the study conducted pursuant to such subsection.

**SEC. 6703. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED VEHICLE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES.**

The Secretary shall carry out a research, development, and demonstration program of advanced vehicle manufacturing technologies and practices, including innovative, efficient, and sustainable processes—

(1) to increase the production rate and decrease the cost of advanced battery and fuel cell manufacturing, including synthesis of precursor materials for electrodes;

(2) to develop technologies enabling flexible manufacturing facilities that can accommodate different battery chemistries and configurations;

(3) to reduce or repurpose waste streams, reduce emissions, and energy intensity of vehicle, engine, advanced battery, and component manufacturing processes;

(4) to recycle and remanufacture used battery components for reuse in vehicles or other applications;

(5) to develop manufacturing and additive manufacturing processes to fabricate, assemble, or package lightweight materials with enhanced functionality such as advanced aluminum, steel, and other metal alloys, advanced polymers, polymeric composites, and ceramic fiber for use in vehicles and related toolsing;

(6) to leverage the use of machine learning toward manufacturing and additive manufacturing optimization;

(7) to design and manufacture purpose-built hydrogen fuel cells, hydrogen fueling infrastructure, and components;

(8) to improve the lifetime and reduce the lifecycle impacts of advanced batteries; and

(9) to reuse valuable components and materials such as permanent magnets and other electric drive components for advanced vehicles.

**SEC. 6704. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for research, development, and demonstration of alternative fuels, vehicle propulsion systems, vehicle components, and other related technologies in the United States, including activities authorized under this subtitle—

(1) for fiscal year 2021, $396,000,000;

(2) for fiscal year 2022, $415,800,000;

(3) for fiscal year 2023, $436,500,000;

(4) for fiscal year 2024, $458,419,500; and

(5) for fiscal year 2025, $481,340,475.

**AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MS. DEGETTE OF COLORADO**

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

**SEC. 118. GAS WASTE REDUCTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF GAS MEASURING AND REPORTING.**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Title I of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Within the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall execute regulations pursuant to the Secretary’s authority under the Mineral Leasing Act, the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1976, the Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938, and other statuses authorizing the Secretary to regulate oil and gas activities on Federal land and Indian lands, that establish requirements for reducing and preventing the waste of gas, including by venting, flaring, and fugitive releases, from covered operations.

(b) **CONTENT OF REGULATIONS.**—The regulations shall, with respect to covered operations—

(A) require that, beginning not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, each operator captures at least 85 percent of the gas volumes flared or vented from each onshore well that is subject to a mineral leasing law;

(B) require that, beginning not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, each operator captures at least 99 percent of all gas produced in each year from each offshore well that is subject to a mineral leasing law;

(C) require flaring of gas, rather than venting, in all instances in which gas is not captured;

(D) require that every application for a permit to drill a production well—

(i) demonstrate sufficient infrastructure and capacity is in place to capture the expected quantity of produced gas from the well; and

(ii) be published with an opportunity for a public comment period of at least 30 days;

(E) beginning not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, prohibit all new and refractured production wells from being flared;

(F) require the operator of any covered operation that routinely flares gas before the effective date of a regulation prohibiting flaring issued pursuant to subparagraph (E) to submit a gas capture plan to the Secretary not later than 180 days before such effective date that ensures that such operator will meet the requirements described in subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(G) set performance standards for newly installed equipment based on modern equipment that minimize gas loss from—

(i) storage tanks;

(ii) dehydration;

(iii) compressors;

(iv) open-ended valves or lines;

(v) pumps; and

(vi) such other equipment as the Secretary determines appropriate to reduce and prevent gas release;

(H) require that operators replace existing equipment within 1 year of the publication date of performance standards established under subsection (G);

(I) require the replacement of all high-bleed or no-bleed devices not later than 180 days after the date of issuance of the regulation enacted under subparagraph (A); and

(J) set performance standards based on modern procedures and equipment that minimize gas loss from—

(i) downhole maintenance;

(ii) liquids unloadings;

(iii) well completion; and

(iv) such other procedures as the Secretary determines appropriate to reduce and prevent gas release.

(K) require all operators to have leak detection programs with regularly scheduled inspections that assess the entire covered operation using infrared camera or other equipment with methods that provide overall at least equivalent sensitivity and effectiveness in detecting leaks on a timely basis; the Secretary may require any leaks found to be repaired promptly, and in any case not later than 4 weeks after the discovery of the leak, except where exceptional circumstances warrant an extension of up to not more than 8 additional weeks; and

(M) require recordkeeping for—
‘(ii) in the case of monetary penalties, be proportional to market conditions.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CAPTURE.—The term ‘capture’ means the physical act of natural gas for transportation to market or productive use of natural gas, and includes reinjection and royalty-free on-site uses.

(2) COVERED OPERATIONS.—The term ‘covered operations’ means all oil and gas operations that are subject to mineral leasing laws or title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.), regardless of size, including production, storage, gathering, processing, and handling operations.

(3) FLARE AND FLARING.—The terms ‘flare’ and ‘flaring’ mean the intentional and controlled burning of gas that occurs in the course of oil and gas operations to limit release of gas to the atmosphere.

(4) FUGITIVE RELEASE.—The term ‘fugitive release’ means the unintentional and uncontrolled release of gas into the atmosphere in the course of oil and gas operations.

(5) GAS CAPTURE PLAN.—The term ‘gas capture plan’ means a plan that includes specific goals, including equipment and timelines, for capturing, gathering, and processing gas produced under an oil or gas lease.

(6) GAS RELEASE.—The term ‘gas release’ includes all gas released to the atmosphere via venting or fugitive release.

(7) VENT AND VENTING.—The terms ‘vent’ and ‘venting’ mean the intentional and controlled release of gas into the atmosphere in the course of oil and gas operations.

(b) MEASURING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—To account for all gas referred to in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall issue regulations requiring each operator to—

‘(A) measure all production and disposition of gas with such accuracy that fugitive gas releases can be calculated;

‘(B) install metering devices to measure all flared gas; and

‘(C) report to the Secretary the volumes of gas measured under the requirements described in subparagraph (A), including—

‘(i) all new measured values for production and disposition, including vented and flared volumes; and

‘(ii) values for fugitive releases based on guidelines for their calculation established by the Secretary under this subsection, including calculated fugitive releases and volumes of gas lost to venting and flaring, publicly available through the Internet.

‘(D) without a fee or other access charge;

‘(E) in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable manner, to the extent technically possible; and

‘(F) as soon as technically practicable after the report by the operator is filed.

‘(c) APPLICATION.—Except as otherwise specified in this section, the requirements established by the Secretary under this section shall apply to—

‘(1) the construction and operation of any covered operation initiated, including the reclamation of land, on or after the date of the issuance of regulations under this section; and

‘(2) after the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the issuance of such regulations, any covered operation initiated before the date of the issuance of such regulations.

‘(d) ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS.—

‘(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include in the regulations issued under this section consistent enforcement mechanisms for covered operations that are not in compliance with the requirements established by the regulations.

‘(2) REMEDIES.—The Secretary shall include in the enforcement mechanisms described in paragraph (1)—

‘(A) civil penalties for unauthorized venting and flaring, which shall—

‘(i) apply in lieu of the penalties and related provisions under section 109; and

‘(ii) include production restrictions or monetary penalties, or both; and

‘(iii) in the case of monetary penalties, be proportional to market conditions.

‘(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

‘(1) CAPTURE.—The term ‘capture’ means the physical act of natural gas for transportation to market or productive use of natural gas, and includes reinjection and royalty-free on-site uses.

‘(2) COVERED OPERATIONS.—The term ‘covered operations’ means all oil and gas operations that are subject to mineral leasing laws or title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.), regardless of size, including production, storage, gathering, processing, and handling operations.

‘(3) FLARE AND FLARING.—The terms ‘flare’ and ‘flaring’ mean the intentional and controlled burning of gas that occurs in the course of oil and gas operations to limit release of gas to the atmosphere.

‘(4) FUGITIVE RELEASE.—The term ‘fugitive release’ means the unintentional and uncontrolled release of gas into the atmosphere in the course of oil and gas operations.

‘(C) without a fee or other access charge;

‘(D) in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable manner, to the extent technically possible; and

‘(E) as soon as technically practicable after the report by the operator is filed.

‘(c) APPLICATION.—Except as otherwise specified in this section, the requirements established by the Secretary under this section shall apply to—

‘(1) the construction and operation of any covered operation initiated, including the reclamation of land, on or after the date of the issuance of regulations under this section; and

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‘(3) FLARE AND FLARING.—The terms ‘flare’ and ‘flaring’ mean the intentional and controlled burning of gas that occurs in the course of oil and gas operations to limit release of gas to the atmosphere.

‘(4) FUGITIVE RELEASE.—The term ‘fugitive release’ means the unintentional and uncontrolled release of gas into the atmosphere in the course of oil and gas operations.

‘(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall in-
Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, with the requirements of clauses (ii) and (iii).

(ii) REPRESENTATION.—The members of the Board shall reflect a broad cross-section of stakeholders from academia, industry, non-profit organizations, State or local governments, the investment community, the philanthropic community, and management and operating contractors of the National Laboratories.

(iii) EXPERIENCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that a majority of the members of the Board—

(A) have experience in the energy sector; (b) have research experience in the energy field; or (c) have experience in technology commercialization or foundation operations; and

(iv) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, REPRESENTS DIFFERENT REGIONS AND ENERGY SECTORS.

(3) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall designate from among the members of the Board—

(i) an individual to serve as Chair of the Board; and

(ii) an individual to serve as Vice Chair of the Board, as applicable.

(B) TERMS.—The term of service of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board shall end on the earlier of (i) a date that is 3 years after the date on which the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board, as applicable, is designated for the position; and (ii) the last day of the term of service of the member, as determined under paragraph (4)(A), who is designated to be Chair or Vice Chair of the Board, as applicable.

(C) REPRESENTATION.—The Chair and Vice Chair of the Board—

(i) shall not be representatives of the same area or entity, as applicable, under paragraph (2)(B)(ii); and

(ii) shall not be representatives of any area or entity, as applicable, represented by the immediately preceding Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

(4) TERMS AND VACANCIES.—

(A) TERMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the term of service of each member of the Board shall be 5 years.

(ii) INITIAL MEMBERS.—Of the initial members of the Board appointed pursuant under paragraph (2)(B)(i), half of the members shall serve for 4 years and half of the members shall serve for 5 years, as determined by the Chair of the Board.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the membership of the Board—

(i) shall be filled in accordance with the bylaws of the Foundation by an individual capable of representing the same area or entity, as applicable, as represented by the departing Board member under paragraph (2)(B)(ii); (ii) shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the Board; and (iii) shall be filled by an individual selected by the Board.

(5) MEETINGS; QUORUM.—

(A) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the Board is established, the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the members of the Board to incorporate the Foundation.

(B) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting the business of the Board.

(6) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

(A) establish bylaws for the Foundation in accordance with paragraph (7); (B) develop a strategic plan for the Foundation and establish priority activities; (C) carry out any other necessary activities of the Foundation; (D) evaluate the performance of the Executive Director; and (E) accept, solicit and accept gifts, funds, grants, devises, or bequests of real or personal property to the Foundation, including from private entities.

(ii) and (iii).

(A) IN GENERAL.—The bylaws established under paragraph (6)(A) may include—

(i) policies for the selection of Board members, officers, fellows, agents, and contractors of the Foundation; (ii) policies, including ethical standards, for— (I) the acceptance, solicitation, and disposition of donations and grants to the Foundation, including appropriate limits on the ability of donors to designate, by stipulation or restriction, the use or recipient of donated funds; and (ii) the disposition of assets of the Foundation.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board shall ensure that—

(i) the bylaws of the Foundation and the activities carried out under those bylaws shall not—

(I) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Foundation to carry out activities in a fair and objective manner; or

(ii) compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of any governmental agency or program, or any officer or employee employed by, or involved in, a governmental agency or program.

(C) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No member of the Board shall receive compensation for serving on the Board.

(B) CERTAIN EXPENSES.—In accordance with the bylaws of the Foundation, members of the Board may be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the Board.

(4) TRAINING AND EDUCATION.—The Foundation may provide programs that provide training and education to researchers, scientists, and other relevant personnel at National Laboratories and institutions of higher education to help commercialize federally funded technologies.

(5) MATURATION FUNDING.—The Foundation shall support programs that provide maturation funding to researchers to advance the technology of those researchers for the purpose of moving projects from a prototype stage to a commercial stage.

(6) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Foundation shall convene, in consultation with representatives from the Department, institutions of higher education, National Laboratories, the private sector, and commercial organizations to develop programs for the purpose of the Foundation described in subsection (c) and to advance the activities of the Foundation.

INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM.—

(A) DEFINITION OF INDIVIDUAL LABORATORY FOUNDATION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘individual Laboratory Foundation’ means a Laboratory Foundation established by a National Laboratory.

(B) SUPPORT.—The Foundation shall provide support to and collaborate with Individual Laboratory Foundations.

(C) GUIDELINES AND TEMPLATES.—For the purpose of providing support under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall establish suggested guidelines and templates for Individual Laboratory Foundations, including—

(i) a standard adaptable organizational design for the responsible management of an Individual Laboratory Foundation; (ii) standard and legally tenable bylaws and money-handling procedures for Individual Laboratory Foundations; and (iii) a standard training curriculum to orient and expand the operating expertise of...
personnel employed by an Individual Laboratory Foundation.

(D) AFFILIATIONS.—Nothing in this paragraph requires—

(i) an existing Individual Laboratory Foundation to modify current practices or affiliate with the Foundation; or

(ii) an Individual Laboratory Foundation to be a member or corporate body, or to be as permanently affiliated with the Foundation.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS.—The Foundation may carry out supplemental programs—

(A) to conduct and support forums, meetings, conferences, courses, and training workshops consistent with the purpose of the Foundation described in subsection (c);

(B) to support and encourage the understanding and development of—

(i) data that promotes the translation of technologies from the research stage, through the development and maturation stage, and ending in the market stage; and

(ii) policies that make regulation more effective and efficient by leveraging the technology translation data described in clause (i) for the regulation of relevant technology sectors;

(C) for writing, editing, printing, publishing, and vending books and other materials relating to research carried out under the Foundation, consistent with the Department;

(D) to conduct other activities to carry out and support the purpose of the Foundation described in subsection (c).

(9) EVALUATIONS.—The Foundation shall support the development of an evaluation methodology, to be used as part of any program supported by the Foundation, that shall—

(A) consist of qualitative and quantitative metrics; and

(B) include periodic third party evaluation of the programs and other activities of the Foundation.

(10) COMMUNICATIONS.—The Foundation shall develop an expertise in communications to promote the work of grant and fellowships recipients under paragraph (2), the commercialization successes of the Foundation, opportunities for partnership with the Foundation, and other activities.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Board shall hire an Executive Director of the Foundation, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL.—No member of the Board, officer or employee of the Foundation or of any program established by the Foundation, or participant in a program established by the Foundation, shall exercise administrative control over any Federal employee.

(3) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Foundation shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a strategic plan that contains—

(A) a plan for the Foundation to become financially self-sustaining in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter (except for the amounts provided each fiscal year under subsection (l)(1)(C));

(B) a forecast of major crosscutting energy challenge opportunities, including short- and long-term objectives, identified by the Board, which input from communities representing the entities and areas, as applicable, described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i); and

(C) a description of the efforts that the Foundation is undertaking to be transparent in the processes of the Foundation, including the processes relating to—

(i) grant awards, including selection, review, and notification;

(ii) communication of past, current, and future research priorities; and

(iii) solicits and response to public input on the opportunities identified under subparagraph (B); and

(D) a description of the financial goals and benchmarks for the Foundation for the following 10 years.

(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Foundation is established, and thereafter, the Foundation shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary a report that, for the year covered by the report—

(A) describes the activities of the Foundation and the progress of the Foundation in furthering the purposes of the Foundation described in subsection (c);

(B) provides a specific accounting of the source and use of all funds made available to the Foundation to carry out those activities;

(C) describes how the results of the activities of the Foundation could be incorporated into the procurement processes of the General Services Administration; and

(D) includes a summary of each evaluation conducted using the evaluation methodology described in subsection (d)(9).

(5) EVALUATION BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which the Foundation is established, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives—

(A) an evaluation of—

(i) the extent to which the Foundation is achieving the mission of the Foundation; and

(ii) the operation of the Foundation; and

(B) any recommendations on how the Foundation may be improved.

(6) AUDITS.—The Foundation shall—

(A) provide for annual audits of the financial condition of the Foundation; and

(B) make the audits, and all other records, documents, and papers of the Foundation, available to the Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States for examination or inspection.

(7) SEPARATE FUND ACCOUNTS.—The Board shall ensure that any funds received under subsection (l)(1)(C) that are held in a separate account from any other funds received by the Foundation.

(8) INTEGRITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To ensure integrity in the operations of the Foundation, the Board shall develop and enforce procedures relating to standards of conduct, financial disclosure statements, conflicts of interest (including recusal and waiver rules), audits, and any other matters determined appropriate by the Board.

(B) FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Any individual who is an officer, employee, or member of the Board is prohibited from any participation in deliberations by the Foundation of a matter that would directly or predictably affect any financial interest of—

(i) the individual; or

(ii) a related entity defined in section 109 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) of that individual; or

(iii) a business organization or other entity in which the individual has a financial interest, including an organization or other entity with which the individual is negotiating employment.

(9) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Board shall adopt written standards to govern the ownership and licensing of any intellectual property rights developed by the Foundation or derived from the collaborative efforts of the Foundation.

(10) LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be liable for any event, act, or omission of the Foundation nor shall the full faith and credit of the United States extend to any obligations of the Foundation.

(11) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Foundation.

(f) DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION.—

(1) NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—The Secretary shall collaborate with the Foundation to—

(A) streamline contracting processes between National Laboratories and the Foundation, including by—

(i) streamlining the ability of the Foundation to transfer equipment and funds to National Laboratories;

(ii) standardizing contract mechanisms to be used by the Foundation; and

(iii) streamlining the ability of the Foundation to fund endowed positions at National Laboratories;

(B) to allow a National Laboratory or site of a National Laboratory to accept and perform work for the Foundation, consistent with provided resources, notwithstanding any other provision of law governing the administration, management, and coordination between the Department, the Foundation, and National Laboratories—

(A) to streamline contracting processes between National Laboratories and the Foundation, and other activities of the Foundation; and

(B) to allow a National Laboratory or site of a National Laboratory to enter into a cooperative research and development agreement or negotiate a licensing agreement with the Foundation pursuant to section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710).

(2) DEPARTMENT LIASIONS.—The Secretary shall appoint liaisons from across the Department to collaborate and coordinate with the Foundation.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall leverage appropriate arrangements, contracts, and directives to carry out the processes developed under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(g) NATIONAL SECURITY.—Nothing in this section exempts the Foundation from any national security policy of the Department.

(h) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Secretary shall provide facilities, utilities, and support services to the Foundation if it is determined by the Secretary to be advantageous to the research programs of the Department.

(i) PREEMPTION OF AUTHORITY.—This section shall not preempt any authority or responsibility of the Secretary under any other provision of law.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(A) to the Secretary, not less than $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2021 to establish the Foundation;

(B) to the Foundation, not less than $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2021 to carry out the activities of the Foundation; and

(C) to the Foundation, not less than $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, for administrative and operational costs.

(2) COST-SHARE.—Funds made available under paragraph (1)(B) shall be required to be cost-shared by a partner of the Foundation other than the Department.
The SPEAKER pro tempore, Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my amendment to increase vehicle technology R&D as we consider this significant investment in a clean energy future for battery technology, cybersecurity, the connected car, our sustainability future, and countless jobs.

Michigan has been a global leader in vehicle technology since we created the industry over a century ago. Our autoworkers are the best in the world. Our manufacturers are the best in the world. But we need to make sure that we continue to have a level playing field to compete.

The U.S. must continue to lead by making the investments just as other nations are doing. Now is not the time to cede our leadership. Now is the time to claim it.

Advances in electrification and connectivity will make vehicles safer, more efficient, and more affordable for consumers and their families. We owe it to our American workers to make sure that this next generation of vehicles is made right here in the United States of America.

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

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

I rise in opposition to this bloc of amendments and to express my profound disappointment with this process.

As I said yesterday, climate change is a generational challenge, one where our work today will have an impact for decades to come. I believe our work on something of this importance deserves thoughtful consideration, careful analysis, and substantial debate. After all, what is at stake here is no small matter.

The policy decisions we make on this issue will not only impact our greenhouse gas emissions; they will also have a direct effect on what Americans pay to cool and heat their homes. They will determine whether we hamstring our energy sectors or give them a global advantage.

Congress has an established process to make smart policy decisions on important issues like this. We consider issues in hearings, debate and vote in committees, and then bring legislation to the House floor.

That is not what happened here. Instead of following regular order on individual policy proposals, we were given 1 week to review 900 pages of legislation.

In the effort to have a voice in this process, Members offered 176 amendments to this bill. Only 99 were made in order.

And now, Mr. Speaker, we don’t even have the chance to debate and vote on those amendments individually. Instead, we are expected to vote to pass or reject 26 amendments en bloc right now. With only one exception, this is how we will vote on all 99 amendments made in order.

That is a problem because it forces us either to vote in favor of policies we don’t support or to vote against the ones we do. That is where I find myself right now.

Not surprisingly, I strongly support my own amendment in this bloc. It expresses the sense of Congress that in order to reduce emissions, the Secretary of Energy must prioritize funding for fundamental research infrastructure and for basic research and development activities carried out through the Office of Science.

Office of Science programs have long served as the cornerstone of U.S. energy innovation. Our clean energy future will be built on next-generation technology areas like grid-scale energy storage, cybersecurity, and integrated carbon management strategies. These technologies are dependent on Federal support for basic research programs and infrastructure.

The Office of Science at DOE is behind some of the most groundbreaking scientific discoveries and technology developments in recent history. Without the innovation that has come from DOE basic research, we wouldn’t have successfully reduced emissions through clean, affordable natural gas.

That is why a clean energy legislative package that fails to include comprehensive Office of Science provisions is not a serious proposal even if it is 900 pages long.

I would urge my colleagues to remember that Americans need affordable and reliable energy, and that has to be a central goal in our policy to address climate change.

We can reduce emissions, keep energy prices competitive, and ensure that the U.S. remains a world leader in science and technology by committing to prioritize basic research and critical infrastructure supported by the Office of Science.

I believe my amendment would improve H.R. 4447 by establishing that Congress is fundamentally committed to research and development breakthrough clean energy technologies. Unfortunately, I can’t support my amendment because it has been lumped in with so many others that actually worsen the underlying legislation by increasing our support of well-funded applied research programs that are duplicating the work that private industry can and should be doing on its own.

But that is what happens when you force through a massive, partisan messaging bill instead of allowing for individual amendments. This shows a lack of faith from the House Democrats and is no way to pass legislation for the public good.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bloc, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS, Mr. Speaker, surely, when we pass this legislation, we will be sending a host of new directives over to the Secretary of Energy. Why continue to win and advance our future?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB).

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, if I would have come before this House in 2006 and said to my colleagues, “I have a policy proposal. It will create hundreds of thousands of jobs in parts of the country that have lost them. It will help free us from wars in the Middle East. It will save middle-class families hundreds if not thousands of dollars a year on their energy bills. And the best part is, it will allow us to reduce carbon emissions for the first time in the history of the United States,” that would sound like a Democratic policy—more jobs, less war, lower bills, less carbon.

That policy was the shale revolution, and we were, in truth, a partnership between government research and entrepreneurs in Pennsylvania and Texas and other places that figured out new techniques to get natural gas out of the ground.

Some have opposed the continuation of natural gas drilling simply because it is a fossil fuel, and I ask them: Who gets credit for the reduced carbon emissions over the last 15 years? Natural gas has made a bigger difference than anything. But we still have a duty to continue trying to improve that process.

A lot of people don’t realize that the National Energy Technology Laboratory, NETL, that exists in western Pennsylvania, has never given up on trying to clean up these processes. They have made great gains, particularly in the area of produced water and trade the water that is used to get the gas out of the ground and removing the contaminants so that the water can be recycled and used over and over again.

We have already seen that in the short life of shale drilling in western Pennsylvania. The NETL has improved recycling of water immensely.

My amendment would give additional money to the Secretary of Energy to double down on this research and, most importantly, establish a demonstration project for the first time ever to better recycle and dispose of this water right onsite, eliminating the loud and noisy trucks that drive through people’s neighborhoods and the risk of contaminating our water table.

This has been a tremendous technology for western Pennsylvania and the United States, and we can continue making it better.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let’s look at this process. Here we have a bill that was a bipartisan bill, H.R. 4447, that passed out...
of the committee on a bipartisan vote, and it was eight pages. It was eight pages.

Today, this bill is nearly 900 pages. Miraculously, from committee to the floor, it just exploded and became nearly 900 pages of text. This bill is now scored to cost the American taxpayers $135 billion.

This is an issue that we agree that we need to be discussing. We need to be discussing America’s energy future. We need to be discussing the fact that Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, and other countries are trying to decimate the American energy industry. They are trying to force our dependence upon them.

Unfortunately, while there are some good components of this bill, much of it plays into the hands of those very countries by forcing the use or pushing the use of technologies by manipulating markets, by distorting costs, that forces us to play into the hands of those countries and become subject or dependent upon them for different resources.

Mr. Speaker, the United States, as I have heard people talk about emissions, we are the leader in the world in terms of reducing emissions. The United States has reduced emissions more than every other country.

People talk about emissions reduction. Under President Obama, there was the Clean Power Plan. We have actually hit the Clean Power Plan target established by President Obama, but we have done it 10 years early.

We haven’t done it by distorting markets. We haven’t done it by forcing the use of technologies. We have done it by letting the market do what it does, by letting innovators innovate, like they do.

So to my friends on the other side of the aisle, I will say it again: We absolutely would love to engage with you on America’s energy future, on how we reduce emissions, we are the leading reducer in emissions.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I remain somewhat baffled and surprised by the remarks of my colleague, particularly those of China, as this bill does.

Ica’s energy future is based upon our technologies moving forward, but also on climate change emissions, we are the leader in the world in climate change emissions, we are the leader in the world in outlays and revenues that are subject to these procedures are shown here.

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays and revenues that are subject to these procedures are shown here.

Subtitle C of Title I would require federal agencies and data centers to implement strategies to acquire, use, and maintain information technologies expected to increase energy efficiency.

This model works. The National Institutes of Health, CDC, and USDA foundations have already demonstrated that they can raise billions of private-sector dollars to support research and innovation. And innovation, in turn, drives economic growth.

To enhance these efforts as part of the clean energy economy, we have the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act.

We will also be advancing my legislation to improve innovators’ access to national lab facilities and to develop the next generation of tech leaders through partnerships between federal laboratories and institutions of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc amendment and the underlying bill.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, even during these challenging times, most Americans recognize that when they get home, they find a habitable place and the lights come on with the flip of a switch. But preserving future American energy independence and energy efficiency is a greater challenge.

The climate crisis that we confront today is not just about endangered polar bears and melting ice sheets that are melting and will submerge our coastal areas; it is here and now with our erratic weather, with our soaring
temperatures, and with blazing wildfires across the country. Energy-efficient technology shouldn’t be the “alternative,” it should be the regular standard.

Now, while my home State of Texas is at the forefront in greenhouse gas pollution and in climate deniers, it is also the home to really significant growth in wind power, the leading State in the country, and a growing source of solar power.

Investments in clean energy protect taxpayer investments and promote public health and safety. These investments ensure America is leading on the road to clean energy, not being run over by it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers new investments in research and development, let’s direct our efforts where we can achieve the greatest savings and the greatest efficiency.

While carbon capture and storage, the process of capturing carbon dioxide from power generation and some industrial processes, has potential, many substantial questions remain about its cost-effectiveness compared to other low-emission technologies, particularly since hundreds of millions of dollars in current tax subsidies are directed, often improperly, to those promoting fossil fuels.

Accordingly, the amendment I have offered that is included in this en bloc amendment gets the facts for taxpayers by asking the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the efficiency of carbon capture technology and evaluate industries regarding its potential.

Enough of the fossilized thinking about fossil fuels. Let’s explore all available tools and technologies, while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are utilized to achieve maximum savings, because energy savings could mean the difference between the Earth’s saving and its destruction.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I would note to my colleague that I have no additional speakers, and I am prepared to close whenever she has concluded with her speech.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

As the Chamber of Commerce noted in a letter to Congress, there is a growing consensus that the research, development, and commercialization of new technologies is an important factor that will determine how quickly and at what cost greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced. The Chamber has recently taken issue with this package because of the inclusion of a number of provisions that diverge from its core focus area, threatening to undermine the otherwise favorable bill.

I am sorry to say it again, but too many provisions of this bill have undermined areas where we could have found bipartisan consensus. The same is true of the bloc of amendments. I, therefore, must urge my colleagues to oppose this bloc.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the bipartisan nature of the original bill that passed through the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee with the leadership of our great chairwoman, EDDIE BERENICE JOHNSON, and our ranking member, Mr. LUCAS.

I also recognize today that we are taking a vote for our future. We are taking a vote for our innovation agenda. Let’s support the research and development efforts of this Nation. We are talking about a clean economy.

Today, as we engaged in debate, we got a glimpse of where this vote might come down.

Mr. Speaker, let it be reminded to all that this House majority is the majority that is working for the people and their future and their jobs, for a clean economy. We are taking the necessary steps to get it done.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remember and to be reminded about where it will come down today with this vote. I urge them to vote “yea.” I urge them to vote for our future. I urge them to vote for our innovation capabilities from the United States of America.

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my strong support for the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMB.

The world desperately needs a new source of energy that has zero-carbon emissions. Such a technological breakthrough is absolutely vital to combating climate change and meeting our growing energy demands.

One such promising technology is fusion energy.

When commercialized, fusion will accelerate the transformation of America’s energy system, providing our zero-carbon energy economy of the future.

My colleague’s amendment, which I’m pleased to co-sponsor, would provide the basis for the United States to maximize its resources, both public and private, to demonstrate and commercialize fusion energy.

His amendment would support public-private partnerships to make fusion energy a reality by building full-scale demonstration facilities—and creating new companies and more jobs here at home.

This is a race against time—not only to prevent the worst catastrophes that we’re beginning to see due to climate change, but also ensuring adequate funds so that the United States is the global leader in fusion.

As Professor Dennis Whyte of MIT wrote last year in The Washington Post, “This is a critical moment for such funding decisions. Other governments are investing billions in fusion.”

The pending amendment’s milestone-based funding program will support the development of a U.S.-based fusion power industry by providing funds to stimulate R&D and eventual commercialization of this new energy source. Each private sector participant will need to meet milestones agreed-upon in partnership with the Department of Energy in order to receive the public funds.

Federal assistance would be made only upon completion of agreed-upon milestones.

I urge support for the amendment as well as the underlying bill.

Mr. GARARENDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my amendment to the “Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act,” H.R. 4447.

I thank my colleague from California, Congressman LOWENTHAL—the chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources—for his support as the amendment’s co-sponsor.

I want to commend Congressman PALONE—the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee—for his leadership with the omnibus clean energy bill before the House today.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act subjects offshore mineral or energy development to U.S. jurisdiction, including the Constitution and applicable federal laws.

Specifically, this 1953 law applies the civil and political jurisdiction of the United States to installations on the Outer Continental Shelf in the United States’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) at sea.

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior—acting through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management—conducts lease sales for offshore development of mineral and energy resources, inducing wind lease sales.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established the Secretary of the Interior’s exclusive offshore wind leasing authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

Our amendment simply clarifies that lease sales for energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf from non-minerals—sources other than oil and natural gas such as wind, geothermal, or ocean current conversion—are indeed subject to U.S. jurisdiction, including federal laws affording labor and environmental protections.

Congress clearly intended U.S. law to apply to any form of exploration, development, production, transportation, and transmission of energy resources under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

Again, all our amendment does is clarify that all forms of offshore energy development are indeed subject to the same U.S. laws that currently apply to the offshore oil and gas industry.

In the 112th Congress, the House of Representatives passed our amendment language, nearly verbatim, by voice vote as the “POWER Act” (H.R. 2360).

According to an April 2018 study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, offshore wind along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States has the potential to eclipse all current land-based wind.

Demand for offshore wind projects in federal waters is strong, as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management sets record lease sales in
the Atlantic, to the benefit of American taxpayers.

In short order, we may see similar demand for federal lease sales for offshore wind elsewhere in the country, including off the West Coast or the U.S. territories.

Offshore wind development will play a central part in our nation’s transition to a clean energy economy powered by renewables.

As we welcome this burgeoning industry, Congress must act decisively to clarify that any offshore wind development on the Outer Continental Shelf—including exploration, production, transportation, and transmission—should be indeed subject to the same federal laws that already apply to offshore oil and gas development or underwater mining.

This is the clear and obvious intent of Congress, and my amendment simply updates the underlying federal law to reflect this reality. As the former Deputy Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, I am a long-time proponent of all forms of renewable energy to help meet the global challenge of man-made climate change, including offshore wind development.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical amendment, simply updating the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to reflect clear Congressional intent and provide legal certainty for offshore wind projects to proceed in accordance with federal law.

Lastly, adopting our amendment to the “Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act” (H.R. 4447) will set the House on strong footing for any Energy Bill conference next Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of two amendments to H.R. 4447, the Clean Energy Jobs and Innovation Act. I am honored to represent Virginia’s 3rd Congressional District, which is on the front lines of sea-level rise. Recognizing the urgent action needed to mitigate the worst of the climate crisis, I am pleased that this bill includes support for climate-related building codes to improve energy efficiency as well as resilience, issues on which Norfolk, Virginia is leading the way. My district is also home to the Port of Virginia and other facilities—as well as workers—that played a critical role in installing the first offshore wind turbines in federal waters this summer. On and offshore, wind energy presents an incredible opportunity to generate clean, renewable energy, and to create good, green, family-sustaining jobs in Hampton Roads and across the country.

I was pleased to submit an amendment encouraging the use of modeling and simulation technologies in wind energy, along with Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY. As co-chairs of the Congressional Modeling and Simulation Caucus, we submitted this amendment to support the development and deployment of modeling and simulation tools to aid in rapidly transitioning our economy away from fossil fuels. Modeling and simulation have been very thoughtfully incorporated into many aspects of this bill—ensuring technologies are effectively deployed, risks to our electric grid are understood, and resilience is enhanced. Modeling and simulation technologies also have incredible potential to contribute to every step of wind energy generation: the design and siting of turbines, wind power forecasting, construction of turbines, and even projecting the need for turbine maintenance and repair.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to increase our understanding of each of these areas.

I also rise in support of my amendment which would support research into rethinking, reducing, and reusing critical materials in wind energy. The widespread deployment of current wind energy technology requires aluminum and rare-earth elements. The increasing demand for these elements and issues within their supply chain are of all of us concerned about the environment, human rights, and our clean energy future to action.

For years, the Department of Energy has acknowledged that “supply challenges” for certain rare earth metals could negatively affect clean energy technology development. The United States is currently largely dependent on other nations, especially China, for rare earth minerals. These minerals may not be quite as finite as their name implies; however, they are generally difficult to mine and require extensive processing. In some places, the industry lacks protections for workers and the environment, jeopardizing communities’ drinking water and soil. We can alleviate these concerns by investing in research to rethink turbine design, reduce the use of such materials, and reuse products which are no longer needed.

Wind energy prices have fallen significantly fallen in the past decade. The levelized cost, which does not account for federal tax credits, decreased from about $90 per megawatt-hour to $30 per megawatt-hour last year. This is an exciting and encouraging trend for consumers, our climate, and communities, like Hampton Roads, that are both threatened by climate change and poised to create good green wind energy jobs. This amendment would facilitate research on the reuse of such materials and the design of turbines that require less of these materials, ensuring that this trend towards more affordable wind energy continues.

In addition to creating jobs here in the United States, supporting the future of wind energy ensures that Americans will have increasing access to energy that is clean, renewable, reliable, and affordable.

I urge my colleagues to support these amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. STEVENS. 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 question are postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. DEGETTE OF COLORADO

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I have amendments en bloc at the desk.
(D) have a disability.
(c) WAGES.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by a subgrantee of an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator a report containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 31, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress and make available on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency a report that includes, with respect to each grant awarded under this section during the preceding calendar year:

(A) the name and location of the eligible entity that was awarded such grant;
(B) the amount of such grant that the eligible entity was awarded;
(C) the name and location of the port where the zero emissions port equipment and technology that was purchased, and as applicable, installed, with such grant is used;
(D) an estimate of the impact of such zero emissions port equipment and technology on reducing:
   (i) greenhouse gas emissions;
   (ii) emissions of criteria pollutants and precursors thereof;
   (iii) hazardous air pollutant emissions; and
   (iv) public health disparities.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030.

(2) NONATTAINMENT AREAS.—To the extent practical, at least 25 percent of amounts made available to carry out this section in each fiscal year shall be used to award grants to eligible entities to purchase zero emissions port equipment and technology to ports that are in nonattainment areas.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) ACTIVE ZONE.—The term "active zone" has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(C) ALTERNATIVE EMISSIONS CONTROL TECHNOLOGY.—The term "alternative emissions control technology" means a technology, technique, or measure that—

(A) captures the emissions of nitrogen oxide, particulate matter, reactive organic compounds, and greenhouse gases from the auxiliary engine and auxiliary boiler of an ocean-going vessel at berth;
(B) is verified or approved by a State or Federal air quality regulatory body; and
(C) the use of which achieves at least the equivalent reduction of emissions as the use of shore power for an ocean-going vessel at berth.

(D) the use of which results in reducing emissions of the auxiliary engine of an ocean-going vessel at berth to a rate of less than:

   (i) 2.8 g/kW-hr for nitrogen oxide;
   (ii) 0.0 g/kW-hr for particulate matter 2.5; and
   (iii) 0.1 g/kW-hr for reactive organic compounds;

(E) reduces the emissions of the auxiliary engine and boiler of an ocean-going vessel at berth by at least 80 percent of the default emissions rate, which is 13.8 g.

(4) CRITERIA POLLUTANT.—The term "criteria pollutant" means each of the following:

(A) Ground level ozone.

(B) Particulate matter.

(C) Carbon monoxide.

(D) Lead.

(E) Sulfur dioxide.

(F) Nitrogen dioxide.

(5) DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE.—

(6) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) a port authority;

(B) a State, regional, local, or Tribal agency that has jurisdiction over a port authority or a port;

(C) an air pollution control district or air quality management district;

(D) a private or nonprofit entity, applying for a grant awarded under this section in collaboration with another entity described in subparagraphs (A) through (C), that owns or uses cargo or transportation equipment at a port.

(7) ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM.—The term "energy storage system" means a system, equipment, facility, or technology that—

(A) is capable of absorbing energy, storing energy for a period of time, and dispatching that energy; and

(B) uses a mechanical, electrical, chemical, electrochemical, or thermal process to store energy that—

   (i) was generated at an earlier time for use at a later time; or

   (ii) was generated from a mechanical process, and would otherwise be wasted, for delivery at a later time.

(8) FULLY AUTOMATED CARGO HANDLING EQUIPMENT.—The term "fully automated cargo handling equipment" means cargo handling equipment that—

   (A) is remotely operated or remotely monitored; and

   (B) with respect to the use of such equipment, does not require the exercise of human intervention or control.

(9) NONATTAINMENT AREA.—The term "nonattainment area" has the meaning given such term in section 171 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7501).

(10) PORT.—The term "port" includes a maritime port and an airport.

(11) PORT AUTHORITY.—The term "port authority" means a governmental or quasi-governmental authority formed by a legislative body to operate a port.

(12) PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT.—The term "project labor agreement" means a project labor agreement as defined in section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(f)).

(13) REGISTERED APPRENTICE.—The term "registered apprentice" means a person who is participating in a registered apprenticeship program.

(14) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term "registered apprenticeship program" means a program registered pursuant to section 101 of the National Apprenticeship Act (29 U.S.C. 155(f)).

(15) SHORE POWER.—The term "shore power" means the provision of shoreside electrical power to a ship at berth that has shut down main and auxiliary engines.

(16) STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCY.—The term "State Apprenticeship Agency" has the meaning given such term in section 29.2 of

(17) ZERO EMISSIONS PORT EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.—
(A) DEFINITIONS.—The term ‘‘zero emissions port equipment and technology’’ means equipment and technology, including the equipment and technology described in subparagraph (B), that—
(i) is used at a port; and
(ii) (I) produces zero exhaust emissions of—
(aa) any criteria pollutant and precursor thereof; and
(bb) any greenhouse gas, other than water vapor; or
(II) captures 100 percent of the exhaust emissions produced by an ocean-going vessel at berth.

(B) EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY DESCRIBED.—The equipment and technology described in this subparagraph are—
(i) any equipment that handles cargo.
(ii) A drayage truck that transports cargo.
(iii) A train that transports cargo.
(iv) Port harbor craft.
(v) A distributed energy resource.
(vi) An energy storage system.
(vii) Electrical charging infrastructure.
(viii) Shore power requirements or an alternative emissions control technology.
(ix) An electric transport refrigeration unit.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. BARRAGÁN OF CALIFORNIA
Page 784, line 22, strike ‘‘$350,000,000’’ and insert ‘‘$50,000,000’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. BARRAGÁN OF CALIFORNIA
Page 131, line 12, strike ‘‘$130,000,000’’ and insert ‘‘$450,000,000’’.

Page 131, line 13, strike ‘‘$330,000,000’’ and insert ‘‘$430,000,000’’.

Page 131, line 14, strike ‘‘$350,000,000’’ and insert ‘‘$410,000,000’’.

Page 131, line 15, strike ‘‘$550,000,000’’ and insert ‘‘$50,000,000’’.

Page 131, line 16, strike ‘‘$350,000,000’’ and insert ‘‘$50,000,000’’.

Page 745, after line 15, insert the following:

(29) CLIMATE JUSTICE.—The term ‘‘climate justice’’ means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all individuals, regardless of race, color, culture, national origin, educational level, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of policies and projects that address climate change, a recognition of the historical responsibilities for climate change borne by the commitment that the people and communities least responsible for climate change, and most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, do not suffer disproportionately as a result of historical injustice and disinvestment.

(30) NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘‘natural infrastructure’’ means infrastructure that naturally and functionally supports or emulates natural ecological processes and—
(A) is created through the action of natural physical, geological, biological, and chemical processes over time;
(B) is created by human design, engineering, and construction to emulate or act in concert with natural processes; or
(C) involves the use of plants, soils, and other natural features, including through the creation, restoration, or preservation of vegetated areas using materials appropriate to the region to manage stormwater and runoff, to attenuate flooding and storm surges, and for other related purposes.

Page 812, after line 17, insert the following:

SEC. 11017. CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM.
(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a program under which the Administrator shall provide grants to eligible entities to assist the eligible entities in—
(1) building capacity to address issues relating to climate justice; and
(2) carrying out any activity described in subsection (d).
(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall—
(i) be a tribal government, or nonprofit, community-based organization;
(ii) submit an application to the Administrator; and
(iii) meet any other requirements specified by the Administrator.
(c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The grant amount to be awarded to a grantee under this section shall be determined by the Administrator.
(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use a grant under this section to—
(i) implement projects that are designed to address climate justice concerns of the environmental justice community; and
(ii) carry out culturally and linguistically appropriate projects and activities that are designed to address climate justice concerns of the environmental justice community, including activities—
(1) to create or develop collaborative partnerships;
(2) to educate and provide outreach services to the environmental justice community on climate justice;
(3) to identify and implement projects to address climate justice concerns, including projects that support solar and wind energy projects; energy efficiency, home and building electrification, home and building weatherization, energy storage, solar and wind energy supported microgrids, battery electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, natural infrastructure, and climate resilient infrastructure;
(4) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under this section may not exceed $20,000,000 for any grant recipient.

(1) REGULATIONS.—In general.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report giving the amounts appropriated for grants under this section and the amounts expended for activities carried out under this section for each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2021, and shall submit the report to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

SEC. 11018. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title—
(1) $1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(2) SEC. 12701. FACILITIES ENERGY RESILIENCE.
(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term ‘‘covered project’’ means a building project at an eligible facility that—
(A) increases—
(aa) resiliency, including—
(i) public health and safety;
(ii) power outages;
(iii) natural disasters;
(iv) indoor air quality; and
(v) any modifications necessitated by the COVID–19 pandemic;
(b) energy efficiency;
(c) renewable energy; and
(d) grid integration; and
(B) may have combined heat and power and energy storage as project components.


(3) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term ‘‘elementary school’’ has the meaning given in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(4) ELIGIBLE FACILITY.—The term ‘‘eligible facility’’ means a public facility, as determined by the Secretary, including—
(A) a public school, including an elementary school and a secondary school;
(B) a facility used to operate an early childhood education program;
(C) a local educational agency;
(D) a medical facility;
(E) a local or State government building; and
(F) a community facility.

(2) REPORT.—The Administrator shall make each report required under this section public by posting a copy of the report on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) SEC. 12702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title—
(1) $1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(2) SEC. 12703. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—When making a grant under this title, the Administrator shall consider—
(A) whether the proposed project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality; and
(B) whether the project will facilitate coordination among various stakeholders (including members of the environmental justice community).

(2) SEC. 12704. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title—
(1) $1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(2) SEC. 12705. IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator shall—
(A) carry out the grants under this title; and
(B) make grants under this title in accordance with section 108 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1080).

(2) SEC. 12706. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title—
(1) $1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(2) SEC. 12707. IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator shall—
(A) carry out the grants under this title; and
(B) make grants under this title in accordance with section 108 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1080).
(7) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7251).

(8) LOW INCOME.—The term “low income”, with respect to a household, means an annual household income equal to, or less than, the greater of—

(A) 80 percent of the median income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; or

(B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(9) LOW INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low income community” means a census block group in which not less than 30 percent of households are low income.

(10) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(12) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6202).


(14) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 7633 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7635(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l))” and inserting “section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)”.

(b) STATE PROGRAMS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall distribute grants to States under the State Energy Program, in accordance with the allocation formula established under that Program, to implement covered projects.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), grant funds under paragraph (1) may be used for technical assistance, project facilitation, and other related activities.

(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—A State may use not more than 10 percent of grant funds received under paragraph (1) to provide technical assistance for the development, facilitation, management, oversight, and measurement of results of covered projects implemented using those funds.

(c) COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND OTHER COMMUNITIES.—To support communities adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, a State shall use not less than 40 percent of grant funds received under paragraph (1) to implement covered projects in environmental justice communities or low income communities.

(d) PRIVATE FINANCING.—A State receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) to the extent practicable, leverage private financing for cost-effective energy efficiency, renewable energy, resiliency, and other smart-building improvements, such as by entering into an energy service performance contract; but

(ii) maintain the use of grant funds to carry out covered projects with more project resiliency, public health, and capital-intensive efficiency and emission reduction components than are typically available through private energy service performance contracts.

(e) GUIDANCE.—In carrying out a covered project using grant funds received under paragraph (1), a State shall, to the extent practicable, adhere to guidance developed by the Secretary under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 115) relating to distribution of funds, if that guidance will speed the distribution of funds under this subsection.

(f) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall not be required to provide any amount of matching funding.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report on the use of those funds to—

(A) the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(B) the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

(h) FUNDING.—In addition to any amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out the State Energy Program, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $18,000,000,000 to carry out this subsection, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

(i) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under subparagraph (b)(1) shall supplement, not supplant, any other funds made available to States for the State Energy Program or the weatherization assistance program established under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.).

(j) FEDERAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Appropriations Committees of the House and the Senate providing an accounting of the Department of Energy’s effort to implement the Federal Energy Management Program established under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which funds are distributed under paragraph (1), and each year thereafter until the funds made available under paragraph (3) are no longer available, the Secretary shall submit a report on the use of those funds to—

(A) the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(B) the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

(j) FEDERAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries of Energy $1,500,000,000 to carry out this subsection, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

(k) USE OF AMERICAN IRON, STEEL, AND MANUFACTURED GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), none of the funds made available by or pursuant to this section may be used for a covered project unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The requirement under paragraph (1) shall not apply if the head of the relevant Federal department or agency in any case or category of cases in which the head of the relevant Federal department or agency determines that—

(A) adhering to that requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(B) the iron, steel, and manufactured goods needed for the project are not produced in the United States—

(i) in sufficient and reasonably available quantities; and

(ii) in a satisfactory quality; or

(C) the inclusion of the iron, steel, and relevant manufactured goods produced in the United States would increase the overall cost of the project by more than 25 percent.

(l) WAIVER PUBLICATION.—If the head of a Federal department or agency makes a determination under paragraph (2) to waive the requirement under paragraph (1), the head of that Federal department or agency shall publish in the Federal Register a detailed justification for the waiver.

(m) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—This subsection shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under all applicable international agreements.

(n) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly or assisted in whole or in part by the Federal Government pursuant to this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘‘Davis-Bacon Act’’).

(2) AUTHORITY.—With respect to the labor standards specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1297; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 315 of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 12701. PERSONNEL.

(a) In General.—To carry out section 12701, the Secretary of Energy shall hire within the Department of Energy—

(1) not less than 300 full-time employees in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewal Energy;

(2) not less than 100 full-time employees, to be distributed among—

(A) the Office of General Counsel;

(B) the Office of Procurement Policy;

(C) the Golden Field Office;

(D) the National Energy Technology Laboratory; and

(E) the Office of the Inspector General; and

(3) not less than 25 full-time employees in the Office of Indian Energy.

(b) Timeline.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) hire all personnel under subsection (a); or

(2) certify that the Secretary is unable to hire all personnel by the date required under this subsection.

(c) CONTRACT HIRE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary makes a certification under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may hire on a contract basis not more than 50 percent of the personnel required to be hired under subsection (a).

(2) DURATION.—An individual hired on a contract basis under paragraph (1) shall have an employment term of not more than 1 year.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $84,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2031.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Secretary shall submit a report on progress made in carrying out subsection (a) to—

(1) the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(5) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

Page 2, after the item relating to section 12802, insert the following:

Sec. 12803. Prohibition on category 1 respiratory sensitizers.

Thermal insulating materials for building elements including walls, floors, ceilings, attics, and other components, used for ‘‘Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program’’ and ‘‘Weatherization Assistance Program’’ shall not contain any substance that is a Category 1 respiratory sensitizer as defined in Appendix A to section 1910.1200 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, (specifically, Appendix A.4, ‘‘Respiratory or Skin Sensitization’’). Each such substance was intentionally added or is present at greater than 0.1 percent (1000 ppm) by weight in the product.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS

Add at the end of subtitle F of title XII the following:

SEC. 12907. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a certification that implementation of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, will not reduce the energy security or energy independence of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS

Add at the end of subtitle F of title XII the following:

SEC. 12907. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a certification that implementation of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, will not increase electric rates or gasoline prices outside of normal market factors.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 142.—REPORT ON MINING OF CRITICAL MINERALS USING FORCED LABOR IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Secretary of State, shall submit to the Congress a report evaluating the use of child labor, slavery, or human trafficking to mine or otherwise obtain one or more of the minerals described in the Notice of the Department of the Interior entitled ‘‘Final List of Critical Minerals 2018’’ (83 Fed. Reg. 22385), or in any successor notice updating such Final List, for export to the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. CLARKE OF NEW YORK

At the end of title VI, add the following:

Subtitle G—Clean Refrigerated Vehicles Program

SEC. 6701. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE ELECTRIFICATION OF CERTAIN REFRIGERATED VEHICLES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

The Administrator shall establish and carry out a pilot program to award funds, in the form of grants, rebates, and low-cost revolving loans, in the event of use of child labor, slavery, or human trafficking, to mine or otherwise obtain one or more of the minerals described in the Notice of the Department of the Interior entitled ‘‘Final List of Critical Minerals 2018’’ (83 Fed. Reg. 22385), or in any successor notice updating such Final List, for export to the United States.

(b) PROJECTS.—An eligible entity receiving an award of funds under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator—

(1) a description of the air quality in the area served by the eligible entity, including a description of how the air quality is affected by diesel emissions from heavy-duty vehicles;

(2) a description of the project proposed by the eligible entity, including—

(A) any technology to be used or funded by the eligible entity; and

(B) a description of the heavy-duty vehicles or the eligible entity that will be retrofitted, if any, including—

(i) the number of such vehicles;

(ii) the uses of such vehicles;

(iii) the locations where such vehicles dock for the purpose of loading or unloading; and

(iv) the routes driven by such vehicles, including the times at which such vehicles are driven;

(3) an estimate of the cost of the proposed project;

(4) a description of the age and expected lifetime control of the equipment used or funded by the eligible entity; and

(5) provisions for the monitoring and verification of the project including to verify scrappage of replaced units.

(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding funds under subsection (a), the Administrator shall give priority to proposed projects that, as determined by the Administrator—

(1) maximize public health benefits;

(2) are the most cost-effective; and

(3) will serve the communities that are most polluted by diesel engine emissions, including communities that the Administrator identifies as being in either nonattainment or maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards for a criteria pollutant, particularly for—

(A) ozone; and

(B) particulate matter.

(d) DATA RELEASE.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an award of funds is made under this section, the Administrator shall publish on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency, a downloadable electronic database, information with respect to such award of funds, including—

(1) the name and location of the recipient;

(2) the total amount of funds awarded;

(3) the intended use or uses of the awarded funds;

(4) the date on which the award of funds was approved; and

(5) where applicable, an estimate of any air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions avoided as a result of the project funded by the award;

(e) any other data the Administrator determines to be necessary for an evaluation of the use and effect of awarded funds provided under this section.

(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—
IMPLEMENTATION, OUTCOMES, OR EFFECTIVENESS OF AWARDS OF FUNDS MADE UNDER SUCH PROGRAM; HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ASSOCIATED WITH THE SECTION 109 OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT (42 U.S.C. EMISSIONS OF AIR POLLUTANTS REGULATED UNDER AWARDS OF FUNDS MADE UNDER SUCH PROGRAM, INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF THE DATA APPENDED, THE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL SUBMIT TO CONGRESS AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC A REPORT THAT DESCRIBES, WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICABLE PROGRAM:

A. THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR AWARDS OF FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER SUCH PROGRAM;
B. ALL AWARDS OF FUNDS MADE UNDER SUCH PROGRAM, INCLUSIVE OF THE DATA DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (F);
D. THE NUMBER OF AWARDS OF FUNDS MADE UNDER SUCH PROGRAM FOR PROJECTS IN COMMUNITIES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E)(3); AND
E. ANY OTHER DATA THE ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES TO BE NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE THE IMPLEMENTATION, OUTCOMES, OR EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH PROGRAM.

ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after amounts made available to carry out this section are expended, or 5 years after the pilot program is established, whichever comes first, the Administrator shall submit to Congress and make available to the public a report that describes:

A. ALL OF THE INFORMATION COLLECTED FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1);
B. ANY BENEFITS TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR HUMAN HEALTH THAT COULD RESULT FROM THE WIDESPREAD DEPLOYMENT OF ELECTRIC TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNITS;
C. ANY CHALLENGES OR BENEFITS THAT RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS OF FUNDS UNDER SUCH PROGRAM REPORTED WITH RESPECT TO THE INTEGRATION OR USE OF ELECTRIC TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNITS AND ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGIES;
D. AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL MARKET POTENTIAL FOR ELECTRIC TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNITS;
E. AN ASSESSMENT OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WIDESPREAD DEPLOYMENT OF ELECTRIC TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNITS INCLUDING IN URBAN AREAS; AND
F. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW FUTURE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROGRAMS CAN BE SUPPORTED TO WIDESPREAD DEPLOYMENT OF ELECTRIC TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNITS.

DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNIT.—The term "diesel-powered transport refrigeration unit" means a transport refrigeration unit that is powered by an independent diesel internal combustion engine.

(3) ELECTRIC TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNIT.—The term "electric transport refrigeration unit" means a transport refrigeration unit in which the refrigeration or climate-control system is driven by an electric motor when connected to shore power infrastructure or other equipment that enables transport refrigeration units to connect to electric power, including all-electric transport refrigeration units, hybrid electric transport refrigeration units, and standby electric transport refrigeration units.

ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means:

A. A Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency, or port authority, with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality;
B. A nonprofit organization or institution that—
   (i) represents or provides pollution reduction or educational services to persons or organizations;
   (ii) owns or operates heavy-duty vehicles or fleets of heavy-duty vehicles; or
   (iii) has, as its principal purpose, the promotion of air quality;
C. An individual or entity that is the owner of record of a heavy-duty vehicle or a fleet of heavy-duty vehicles that operates for the transportation and delivery of perishable goods or other goods requiring climate-controlled conditions;
D. An individual or entity that is the owner of record of a facility that operates as a warehouse or wholesaler for perishable goods or other goods requiring climate-controlled conditions; or
E. A hospital or public health institution that utilizes refrigeration for storage of perishable goods or other goods requiring climate-controlled conditions.

HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE.—The term "heavy-duty vehicle" means:

A. A commercial truck or van that—
   (i) used for the primary purpose of transporting perishable goods or other goods requiring climate-controlled conditions; and
   (ii) with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 6,000 pounds; or
B. An insulated cargo trailer used in transporting perishable goods or other goods requiring climate-controlled conditions when mounted on a semitrailer.

SHORE POWER INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term "shore power infrastructure" means electrical infrastructure that provides power to the electric transport refrigeration unit of a heavy-duty vehicle when such vehicle is stationed on land, such as when such vehicle is parked or loaded, including a food distribution center or other location where heavy-duty vehicles congregate.

TRANSPORT REFRIGERATION UNIT.—The term "transport refrigeration unit" means a climate-control system installed on a heavy-duty vehicle for the purpose of maintaining the quality of perishable goods or other goods requiring climate-controlled conditions.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

A. The term "authorization of appropriations" means—
   (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Administrator may use not more than 1 percent of amounts made available pursuant to paragraph (1) for administrative expenses to carry out this section.

AMENDMENT NO 17 OFFERED BY MR. CLEAVER OF MISSOURI

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12607. TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM.

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) EFFECTS.—The term "Program" means the Program established under section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301).

(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means an organization that—

(A) is described in section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(B) OPERATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH 1 OR MORE OF THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 170(h)(4)(A) OF THAT CODE.

(D) PROGRAM.—The term "Program" means the grant program established under section (b)(1).

(E) PROJECT.—The term "project" means a tree planting project carried out by an eligible entity using grant funds awarded under this program.

(F) RETAIL POWER PROVIDER.—The term "retail power provider" means any entity authorized under applicable Federal law to generate, distribute, or retail electricity, natural gas, or fuel oil service.

(G) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(H) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish a program under which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to conduct tree planting projects in accordance with this section.

(2) TREE PLANTING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, in carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, award sufficient grants each year to plant not less than 300,000 trees each year.

(I) APPLICATIONS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) A description of how the project will reduce residential energy consumption;

(B) AN ESTIMATE OF THEEXPECTED REDUCTION IN RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION;

(C) A DESCRIPTION OF THE TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS OF THE PROJECT AND SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT;

(D) A DESCRIPTION OF THE ANTICIPATED COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE PROJECT;

(E) A DESCRIPTION OF THE TREE SPECIES TO BE PLANTED AND HOW THAT SPECIES IS SUITABLE FOR THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND CLIMATE; AND

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY.

(PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

(1) PROVIDE THE LARGEST POTENTIAL REDUCTION IN RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH A HIGH ENERGY BURDEN;

(2) ARE LOCATED IN A NEIGHBORHOOD WITH LOWER TREES COVER AND HIGHER MAXIMUM DAYTIME SUMMER TEMPERATURES;
of Colorado

Amend at the end of title XI the following:

SEC. 11017. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR COMMUNITIES OVERBURDENED BY ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall, in consultation with the Advisory Council and co-regulators in State and local agencies, identify at least 100 communities—

(1) that are environmental justice communities; and

(2) in which there have been over the previous 5 years a number of violations of environmental law that the Administrator determines to be greater than the national average of such violations.

(b) ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, with respect to each community identified under subsection (a), and in consultation with the Advisory Council, the Administrator shall—

(1) undertake an analysis of the conditions which have led to the number of violations identified under subsection (a)(1), including through community-based science implemented through engagement with the residents of such communities;

(2) identify the root cause of the number of violations described under subsection (a)(1); and

(3) recommend measures that the Administrator shall take, in coordination with co-regulators in State and local agencies, to reduce the number of violations of environmental law to a number that the Administrator determines to be significantly below the national average.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall complete the implementation of the measures identified under subsection (b)(3).
"(II) a defined analysis of the data collected under clause (i) for public comment, subject to applicable confidentiality safeguards;"

(1b) the percentage growth in the number of shipments within each category of exempted water heaters relative to the baseline data described in subclause (Ib); and

(1c) be published by the Secretary as to whether the number of shipments for any category of exempted water heater have increased by more than 25 percent compared to the baseline data for that category.

(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, revise the definition of water heater under section 321(27) to include an exempted water heater under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph that makes an affirmative determination under subparagraph (B)(i)(II)(cc) for that category of exempted water heater.

(3) TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL ELECTRIC STORAGE WATER HEATERS.—A multi-input electric storage water heater shall be subject to the test procedures, energy conservation standards, labeling, if applicable, and certification requirements specified in section 325(e) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(e)) as amended by adding the following:

"(CC) the Secretary may not create separate product classes for heat pump water heaters and other electric storage water heaters.

(c) DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL WATER HEATERS.—Sec. 12607. Labor Standards.

Sec. 12607. Labor Standards.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall provide for a process that is applicable to the Department's request under subparagraph (A).

(b) Certification.—Sec. 12607. Labor Standards.

Sec. 12607. Labor Standards.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall provide for a process that is applicable to the Department's request under subparagraph (A).

(b) Certification.—Sec. 12607. Labor Standards.

Sec. 12607. Labor Standards.

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(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall provide for a process that is applicable to the Department's request under subparagraph (A).

(b) Certification.—Sec. 12607. Labor Standards.
paragraph (3), 1 year after the Secretary receives such additional information from the entity, or
(B) in a case that is not described in paragraph (A), 1 year after the date on which the entity submits the application under paragraph (2).
(3) PRECERTIFICATION REMEDIES.—The Secretary shall consider any corrective actions taken by an entity seeking certification under this subsection to remedy an administrative merits determination, arbitral award or decision, or civil judgment identified under subsection (c)(3) and shall impose as a condition of certification any additional remedies necessary to avoid further or repeated violations.
(c) LABOR STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall require an entity, as a condition of certification under this section, to satisfy each of the following requirements:
(1) The entity shall ensure that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of any construction or maintenance project shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a similar character in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 2 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act").
(2) In the case of any construction or maintenance project, for which the amount of the contract price is $25,000,000, the entity shall be a party to, or require contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such construction or maintenance project to consent to, a covered project labor agreement.
(3) The entity, and all contractors and subcontractors in performance of any construction or maintenance project, shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a similar character in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 2 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act").
(4) The entity, and all contractors and subcontractors in the performance of construction or maintenance project shall not require arbitration for any dispute involving an employee described in paragraph (5) engaged in a service for the entity or any contractor or subcontractor, as defined in the application, or enter into any agreement with such employee requiring arbitration of any such dispute, unless such employee is covered by a collective bargaining agreement that requires such arbitration.
(5) For purposes of compliance with the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), the requirements under this section, the entity, and all contractors and subcontractors in the performance of any construction or maintenance project, shall consider an individual performing any service in such performance as an employee (and not an independent contractor) of the entity, contractor, or subcontractor, respectively, unless—
(A) the individual is free from control and direction in connection with the performance of the service, and in fact;
(B) the service is performed outside the usual course of the business of the entity, contractor, or subcontractor, respectively; and
(C) the individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business of the same nature as that involved in such service.
(6) The entity shall prohibit all contractors and subcontractors in the performance of any construction or maintenance project from hiring employees through a temporary workforce agency certifies that temporary employees of the entity as described in paragraph (7), or to perform any contract, or subcontractor, respectively; and
D) the entity shall require all contractors, subcontractors, successors in interest of the entity, and all other entities that may acquire the entity, in the construction or any construction or maintenance project to have and abide by a plan that ensures the availability of temporary employees as necessary to address an acute, short-term labor need.
(7) The entity shall require all contractors, subcontractors, successors in interest of the entity, and all other entities that may acquire the entity, in the construction or any construction or maintenance project, to have and abide by an explicit plan that ensures the availability of temporary employees as necessary to address an acute, short-term labor need.
(8) The entity shall require all contractors and subcontractors to participate in a certified apprenticeship program for all skilled craft employed on any construction or maintenance project.
(9) The entity, and all contractors and subcontractors in the performance of any construction or maintenance project, shall not request or otherwise consider the criminal history of an applicant for employment before extending a conditional offer to the applicant, unless—
(A) the background check is otherwise required by law;
(B) the position is for a Federal law enforcement officer (as defined in section 1216a of title 18, United States Code); or
(C) the Secretary of Labor, after consultation with the Secretary of Defense, certifies that precluding criminal history prior to the conditional offer would pose a threat to national security.
(d) DAVIS-BACON ACT.—The Secretary of Labor shall have, with respect to the labor, employment, and subcontracting requirements of this section, to satisfy each of the following requirements:
(e) PERIOD OF VALIDITY FOR CERTIFICATIONS.—A certification made under this section shall be in effect for a period of 5 years.
(f) REVOCATION OF QUALIFIED ENTITY STATUS.—The Secretary of Labor may revoke the certification of an entity under this section as a qualified entity at any time in which the Secretary reasonably determines that the entity is no longer in compliance with the requirements of subsection (c).
(g) CERTIFICATION MAY COVER MORE THAN 1 SIMILAR PROJECT.—The Secretary of Labor may make certifications under this section which apply with respect to more than 1 project if the projects to which the certification applies are substantially similar projects which meet the requirements of this section.
(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) COVERED PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT.—The term "covered project labor agreement" means a project labor agreement that—
(A) binds all contractors and subcontractors in connection with the construction project, and allows the inclusion of appropriate specifications in all relevant solicitation provisions and contract documents;
(B) allows all contractors and subcontractors to compete for contracts and all contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such contracts to participate in a collective bargaining agreement;
(C) contains guarantees against strikes, lockouts, and other similar job disruptions; and
(D) provides other mechanisms for labor-management cooperation on matters of mutual interest and concern, including productivity, quality of work, safety, and health.
(2) PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT.—The term "project labor agreement" means a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the right of any individual to be a party to a collective bargaining agreement; or
(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated from any funds otherwise available for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter:
AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. GOLDEN OF MAINE
Page 203, line 8, strike ''; or'' and insert a semicolon.
Page 203, line 2, strike the semicolon and insert a colon.
Page 203, line 2, strike the semicolon and insert a period.
Page 203, line 2, strike the semicolon and insert a period.
Page 203, line 2, strike the semicolon and insert a period.
Page 203, line 2, strike the semicolon and insert a period.
Page 717, line 1, insert “biomass CHP,” after “technologies,”.
Page 717, line 6, insert “and communities” after “organizations.”
Page 717, line 19, insert “communities,” after “companies.”
Page 821, line 15, insert “biomass,” after “wind.”
Page 824, line 23, insert “biomass,” after “hydropower.”

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. HAALAND OF NEW MEXICO
Page 391, line 10, strike “or”.
Page 391, line 12, strike “entities;” and insert “entities; or”.
Page 391, line 12 insert: (E) that does not require extraction of uranium or development of uranium from lands managed by the Federal Government, cause harm to the natural or cultural resources of Tribal communities or sovereign Native Nations, or result in degraded ground or surface water quality on publicly managed or privately owned lands;

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MRS. HAYES OF CONNECTICUT
Page 536, lines 1 through 15, amend subsection (e) to read as follows:
(e) AMENDMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS—
Subsection (f), as redesignated, of section 741 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16891) is amended to read as follows:
(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section, to remain available until expended, $130,000,000, for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, of which—
(1) not less than $100,000,000 for each such fiscal year shall be used for awards under this section to eligible recipients proposing to replace school buses with zero-emission school buses; and
(2) not less than $52,000,000 for each such fiscal year shall be used for awards under this section to eligible recipients proposing to replace or retrofit school buses to serve a low-income community, or any community to result in degraded ground or surface water quality on publicly managed or privately owned lands;

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MRS. HAYES OF CONNECTICUT
Page 9, after the item relating to section 12060, insert the following:
Sec. 120607. Affirming Protections for Children and Workers.
At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:
SEC. 120607. AFFIRMING PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND WORKERS.
Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the safety and wellbeing of children in the carrying out of projects, programs, and other applicable items in this Act nor to undermine or affect the enforcement of laws relating to protections against child labor and forced labor including:
(1) the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.);
(2) title 29, subtitle B, chapter V, Subchapter III, Child Labor Regulations, Orders, and Statements of Interpretation;
(3) article 3 of the International Labor Organization Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor (December 2, 2000), or in violation of human rights.
(4) number 182 of the International Labor Organization Convention, entitled “Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention” (1999);
(5) number 199 of the International Labor Organization Convention, entitled “Abolition of Forced Labour Convention” (1997);
(6) applicable trade laws, including trade preference programs, trade agreements and Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930; and
(7) Executive Order 13126, dated June 12, 1999, entitled “Prohibition of the Use of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor.”

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA
At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following:
SEC. 2208. KLAMATH HYDROELECTRIC SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT TRIBAL FAIRNESS.
(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) FACILITY.—The term “facility” means 1 or more of the following hydropower facilities (including a facility that is licensed to Pacificorp) within the jurisdictional boundary of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2082 (as applicable):
(A) Iron Gate Dam.
(B) Copco No. 1 Dam.
(C) Copco No. 2 Dam.
(D) J. C. Boyle Dam.
(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
(3) HARMED INDIAN TRIBES.—The term “harmed Indian Tribes” means—
(A) the Klamath Tribes;
(B) other Indian Tribes that are located downstream of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project.
(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).
(5) LICENSEE.—The term “licensee” means the owner and licensee of the facility (as of the date of enactment of this Act).
(6) IN GENERAL.—In light of the specific facts and circumstances of the Klamath Hydroelectric Agreement that anticipated dam removal to commence in 2020, and to mitigate the historic and ongoing damages caused by the facility to aquatic and Tribal trust resources, the Commission shall not issue any annual license for the facility under section 15(a)(1) of the Federal Power Act (36 U.S.C. 264) unless the Commission has provided harmed Indian Tribes and the States of California and Oregon the opportunity to recommend terms and conditions under section 4(e), section 10, and section 18 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 797(e), 803, and 811), including any conditions providing for fishways or fish recovery.
(7) STUDIES.—Upon approval of an annual license pursuant to subsection (b), the Commission shall require the licensee to provide to the Commissioner:
(A) an analysis comparing the cost of installing and operating qualifying distributed energy systems; and
(B) a report, to be made publicly available by the Commission, on the financial status of the facility, including—
(A) an analysis comparing the cost of power generated at the facility to revenue attributable to the facility during the preceding year;
(B) a projection of the cost of power generated at the facility and the revenue attributable to the facility during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the license;
(C) an explanation of whether the financial terms of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, as amended, have been met; and
(D) a detailed description of the annual costs associated with the facility that are passed through to the ratepayers of the licensee.
(d) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of this section shall not apply to any entity filing a surrender application as specified in the Commission’s order relating to the facility dated July 16, 2020 (172 FER C 61.062).

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MRS. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Page 823, line 21, strike “$20,000,000” and insert “$40,000,000.”

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MRS. LEE OF NEVADA
Amend subtitle C of title II to read as follows:
Subtitle C—Distributed Renewable Energy

SEC. 2301. DEFINITIONS.
In this subtitle:
(1) AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION.—The term “authority having jurisdiction” means—
(A) any State, county, local, or Tribal office or official with jurisdiction—
(A) to issue permits;
(B) to conduct inspections to enforce the requirements of a relevant code or standard; or
(C) to approve the installation of, or the equipment and materials used in the installation of, qualifying distributed energy systems.
(2) DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEM—
The term “distributed energy system” means an entity or individual—
(A) with knowledge and skills relating to—
(i) the construction and operation of the equipment used in qualifying distributed energy systems; and
(ii) the installation of qualifying distributed energy systems; and
(B) that has employed safety training to recognize and avoid the hazards involved in constructing, operating, and installing qualifying distributed energy systems.
(3) QUALIFYING DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEM.—The term “qualifying distributed energy system” means any equipment or material, including—
(a) to generate electricity from distributed renewable energy sources, including—
   (i) solar photovoltaic modules or similar solar energy technologies;
   (ii) wind power systems; and
   (iii) hydrogen electrolysis and fuel cell systems;
   (B) to store and discharge electricity from batteries with a capacity of at least 2 kilowatt-hours;
   (C) to charge a plug-in electric drive vehicle at a power rate of at least 2 kilowatts;
   (D) to fuel a fuel cell electric vehicle; or
   (E) to generate electricity from fuel cell systems with a capacity of at least 2 kilowatt-hours.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 2302. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM TO FACILITATE VOLUNTARY STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR LOCAL PERMITTING OF QUALIFYING DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEMS.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with trade associations and other entities representing distributed energy system installers and organizations representing State, local, and Tribal authorities engaged in permitting, shall establish and carry out a program to establish a voluntary streamlined permitting process for local permitting and inspection of qualifying distributed energy systems, in consultation with national consensus-based codes and standards referenced therein.

(b) ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) facilitate the development and maintenance of a streamlined permitting process that the Secretary, through the use of an online permitting platform for expediting, standardizing, and streamlining permitting, that authorities having jurisdiction may use to receive, review, and approve permit applications relating to qualifying distributed energy systems;

(2) establish a model expedited permit-to-build protocol for qualifying distributed energy systems; and

(3) provide technical assistance to authorities having jurisdiction on using and adopting—

(A) the streamlined permitting process described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the model expedited permit-to-build protocol described in paragraph (2).

(4) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A VOLUNTARY NATIONAL INSPECTION PROTOCOL INTEGRATED WITH THE NATIONAL ONLINE PERMITTING PLATFORM.—The Secretary shall—

(I) develop and maintain a voluntary national inspection protocol integrated with the national online permitting platform described in paragraphs (1) and (2) and related tools to expedite, standardize, and streamline the inspection of qualifying distributed energy systems, including—

(A) by investigating the potential for using remote inspection tools; and

(B) by investigating the potential for sample-based inspection for distributed energy systems, including demonstrating track record of high-quality work; and

(5) take any other action to expedite, standardize, streamline, or improve the process for permitting, inspecting, or interconnecting qualifying distributed energy systems.

(c) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) provide technical assistance to authorities having jurisdiction, any administrator of a national online permitting platform, governing bodies, software providers, and any other entity determined appropriate by the Secretary in carrying out the activities described in subsection (b); and

(2) provide technical assistance as the Secretary determines appropriate from any funds appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 2303. DISTRIBUTED ENERGY OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITIES.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall recognize and certify certain communities as “Distributed Energy Opportunity Communities”:

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary may certify as a “Distributed Energy Opportunity Community” if that State, local community, or Tribe meets the following:

(c) PROCESS.—The Secretary may confer a certification under paragraph (a) through existing programs of the Department of Energy.

(d) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award competitive grants to communities that demonstrate the model expedited permit-to-build protocol and the standardized inspection process established under this section.

SEC. 2304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subtitle $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 543, line 5, strike “or” at the end.

Page 543, after line 5, insert the following:

(B) a community in which climate change, pollution, or environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, social, environmental, and economic injustices by disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, dispersed rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, or youth; or

Page 543, line 6, strike “(B)” and insert “(C)”.

Page 544, line 17, strike “equipment.” and insert “equipment, including accessibility in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).”; and

Page 546, line 14, strike “and” at the end.

Page 546, after line 13, insert the following:

(v) an identification of any existing electric vehicle such that

(I) is available to the public for a minimum of 12 hours per day; and

(II) is not more than 50 miles from the global positioning system location identified under clause (i); and

Page 546, line 15, strike “(v)” and insert “(vi)”.

Page 561, beginning on line 6, strike “electric vehicles nationwide;” and insert “electric vehicles nationwide, taking into consideration range anxiety and the location of charging infrastructure to ensure an electric vehicle can travel throughout the United States without losing a charge.”;

Page 567, line 13, strike including commercial vehicles; and insert “including commercial vehicles, to an extent that such electric vehicles can travel throughout the State without running out of a charge; and”;

Page 567, line 24, strike “electric grid” and insert “electric grid, including the use of renewable energy sources to power the electric grid.”

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 830, after line 5, insert the following:

PART 3—MEASURING GREEN COLLABORATION

SEC. 12121. MEASURING GREEN JOBS.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, and acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, where appropriate, shall collect and analyze labor market data to track workforce trends resulting from renewable energy and efficiency technology initiatives carried out under this section. Activities carried out under this section shall include that—

(1) Tracking and documentation of academic and occupational competencies as well as future skill needs with respect to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology;

(2) Tracking and documentation of occupational information and workforce training data with respect to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology;

(3) Collaborating with State agencies, workforce investments boards, industry, organized labor, and community and nonprofit organizations to disseminate information on successful innovations for labor market services and worker training with respect to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology;

(4) Serving as a clearinghouse for best practices in workforce development, job training, and collaborative training partnerships;

(5) Encouraging the establishment of workforce training initiatives with respect to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology;

(6) Linking research and development in renewable energy and energy efficiency technology with the development of standards and curricula for current and future jobs;

(7) Assessing new employment and work practices including career ladder and upgradable training as well high performance work systems;

(8) Providing technical assistance and capacity building to national and State energy partners, including industry and labor representatives;

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each fiscal year 2021 through 2025.

Page 9, after the matter relating to section 12113, insert the following:

PART 3—MEASURING GREEN COLLABORATION

Development

Sec. 12121. Measuring green jobs

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MR. LOEBSACK OF IOWA

Add at the end of part 3 of subtitle A of title IX, the following:

SEC. 1122. GRANTS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS AT PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a consortium of—

(A) one local educational agency; and

(B) one or more—

(i) schools;

(ii) nonprofit organizations; or

(iii) for-profit organizations; or

(iv) community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvement projects;

(2) ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS.—The term “energy improvements” means—

(A) any improvement, repair, or renovation to a school that will result in a direct reduction in school energy costs including but not limited to improvements to building envelope, air conditioning, ventilation, heating system, domestic water heating, compressed air systems, distribution systems, lighting, power systems and controls;

(B) any improvement, repair, renovation, or installation that will result in a direct improvement in teacher and student health including but not limited to indoor air quality,
daylighting, ventilation, electrical lighting, and acoustics; and
(C) the installation of renewable energy technologies (such as wind power, photovoltaics, solar thermal systems, geothermal energy, hydrogen-fueled systems, biomass-based systems, biofuels, anaerobic digesters, and hydropower) involved in the improvement, repair, or renovation to the school.

(b) AUTHORITY.—From amounts made available for grants under this section, the Secretary of Energy shall provide competitive grants to eligible entities to make energy improvements authorized by this section.

(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that have renovation, repair, and improvement funding needs and are—
(1) a high-need local educational agency, as defined in section 2102 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6602); or
(2) a local educational agency designated with a metropolitan locale code of 41, 42, or 43, as defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in conjunction with the Bureau of the Census, using the NCES system for classifying local educational agencies.

(d) COMPETITIVE CRITERIA.—The competitive criteria used by the Secretary shall include the following:
(1) the fiscal capacity of the eligible entity to meet the needs for improvements of school facilities without assistance under this section, including the ability of the eligible entity to raise funds through the use of local bonding capacity and otherwise;
(2) the likelihood that the local educational agency or eligible entity will maintain, in good condition, any facility whose improvement is assisted;
(3) the potential energy efficiency and safety benefits from the proposed energy improvements;
(4) an assessment of the applicant's capacity to provide services and comprehensive support to make the energy improvements;
(5) an assessment of the applicant's expected needs for operation and maintenance training funds, and a plan for use of those funds;
(6) an assessment of the expected energy efficiency and safety benefits of the energy improvements;
(7) an identification of other resources that are available to carry out the activities for which funds are requested under this section, including the availability of utility programs and public benefit funds.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an applicant must submit to the Secretary an application that includes each of the following:
(1) A needs assessment of the current condition of the school and facilities that are to receive energy improvements;
(2) A draft work plan of what the applicant hopes to achieve at the school and a description of the energy improvements to be carried out;
(3) A description of the applicant's capacity to provide services and comprehensive support to make the energy improvements;
(4) An assessment of the applicant's expected needs for operation and maintenance training funds, and a plan for use of those funds;
(5) An assessment of the expected energy efficiency and safety benefits of the energy improvements;
(6) An estimate of the proposed energy improvements;
(7) An identification of other resources that are available to carry out the activities for which funds are requested under this section, including the availability of utility programs and public benefit funds.

(f) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—
(1) GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant under this section shall use the grant amounts only to make the energy improvements contemplated in the application, subject to the other provisions of this subsection.

(2) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING.—The recipient may use up to 5 percent of the grant amount to provide energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements (such as maintenance staff and teacher training, education, and preventative maintenance training).

(3) AUDIT.—The recipient may use funds for a third-party investigation and analysis for the cost of energy improvements (such as energy audits and existing building commissioning).

(4) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—The recipient may use up to 1 percent of the grant amount for a curriculum relating to energy improvements.

(g) CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.—
(1) A grant recipient may use any laborer or mechanic employed by any contractor or subcontractor in the performance of work on any energy improvements funded by a grant under this section to perform services at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 49, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

(2) COMPETITION.—Each applicant that receives funds shall ensure that, if the applicant carries out repair or renovation through a contract, any such contract procured—
(A) ensures the maximum number of qualified bidders, including small, minority, and women-owned businesses, through full and open competition; and
(B) gives priority to businesses located in, or resources common to, the State or the geographical area in which the project is carried out.

(h) REPORTING.—Each recipient of a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary, at such time as the Secretary may require, a report describing the use of such funds for energy improvements, the results of any audit, the use of any utility programs and public benefit funds and any performance tracking for energy improvements (such as the Department of Energy: Energy Star program or LEED for Existing Buildings).

(i) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall develop and publish guidelines and best practices for activities carried out under this section.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. LUGAR OF NEW MEXICO
After section 2401 insert the following:

SEC. 2402. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(d) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2622(d)) is amended by adding at the end of the section:

"(21) COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAMS.—Each electric utility shall offer a community solar program that provides low-income ratepayers, equitable and demonstrable access to such community solar program. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term 'community solar program' means a service provided to any electric consumer that the electric utility serves through which the value of electricity generated by a community solar facility may be used to offset charges billed to the electric consumer by the electric utility. A 'community solar facility' is—:
(A) a solar photovoltaic system that allocates electricity to multiple electric consumers of an electric utility;
(B) connected to a local distribution network of the electric utility;
(C) located either on or off the property of the electric consumers; and
(D) may be owned by an electric utility, an electric consumer, or a third party.''.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—
(1) TIME LIMITATIONS.—Section 112(c) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2622(b)) is amended by adding at the end of the section:

"(8)(A) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which the State has rate-making authority) and each nonregulated electric utility shall commence consideration under section 111, or set a hearing date for consideration, with respect to the standards established by paragraph (21) of section 111(d)."

"(B) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which the State has rate-making authority), and each nonregulated electric utility shall complete the consideration and make the determination under section 111 with respect to the standard established by paragraph (21) of section 111(d)."

(2) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 112(c) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2622(c)) is amended—
(i) by striking "such paragraph (14)" and all that follows through "paragraphs (16)" and inserting "such paragraph (14)"
(ii) TREATMENT.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be in effect as if those amendments had been made by striking paragraph (14) of section 111(d).
(B) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—
(i) IN GENERAL.—Section 1254(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 119 Stat. 971) is amended—
(I) by striking paragraph (2); and
(II) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).
(ii) TREATMENT.—The amendment made by paragraph (2) of section 1254(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 119 Stat. 971) as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of that paragraph (15). In the case of the standards established by paragraphs (16); and
(ii) by adding at the end the following: "In the case of the standard established by paragraph (15) of section 111(d), the reference contained in this subsection to the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of that paragraph (21)."

(2) PRIOR STATE ACTIONS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 112 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2622(d)) is amended by adding at the end of the section:

"(2) PRIOR STATE ACTIONS.—Subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply to the standard established by paragraph (21) of section 111(d) in the case of any electric utility in a State if, before the date of enactment of this Act, the State regulatory authority for the State or the relevant nonregulated electric utility has conducted a proceeding to consider implementation of the standard (or a comparable standard) for the electric utility; or
(3) the State legislature has voted on the implementation of the standard (or a comparable standard) for the electric utility; or
(C) CROSS-REFERENCE.—Section 121 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of
1978 (16 U.S.C. 2634) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In the case of the standard established by paragraph (21) of section 111(d), the reference contained in this subsection to the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of that paragraph (21).”

Page 562, line 3, strike “(21)” and insert “(22)”.

Page 563, line 18, strike “(8)” and insert “(9)”.

Page 563, line 25, strike “(21)” and insert “(22)”.

Page 564, line 8, strike “(21)” and insert “(22)”.

Page 564, line 14, strike “(21)” and insert “(22)”.

Page 564, line 22, strike “(h)” and insert “(i)”.

Page 564, line 24, strike “(21)” and insert “(22)”.

Page 565, line 20, strike “(21)” and insert “(22)”.

Page 565, line 24, strike “(21)” and insert “(22)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle H of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1006. REBATE PROGRAM FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT ELECTROTECHNOLOGIES.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Energy Efficient Electrotechnology.—The term “energy efficient electrotechnology” means—

(A) any electric technology that, when used instead of a fossil fuel-fired technology in an industrial process results in—

(i) energy efficiency, or production efficiency, gains; or

(ii) environmental benefits; or

(B) any electric technology that, when used instead of a fossil fuel-fired technology in an industrial application results in—

(i) improvements in on-site logistics or material handling; and

(ii) energy efficiency gains and environmental benefits.

(2) Qualified Entity.—The term “qualified entity” means an industrial or manufacturing facility, commercial building, or a utility or energy service company.

(b) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(c) Establishment.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to provide assistance under this section.

(d) Rebates.—The Secretary may provide a rebate under the program established under subsection (b) to an owner or operator of a qualified entity for an energy efficient electrotechnology that is used to replace a fossil fuel-fired technology if the Secretary determines that such expenditures were necessary for the owner or operator to comply with Federal or State law.

(e) Authorized Amount of Rebate.—The amount of a rebate provided under this section shall be not more than 50 percent, of the overall cost of the energy efficient electrotechnology, including installation costs.

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS OF NEW JERSEY

Page 56, line 5, strike “and” and insert “including multifamily buildings”.

Page 56, after line 13, insert the following: “(F) to make an addition or alteration to, or to install, replace, or provide maintenance to, an air filtration and purification system of an HVAC system to meet exigencies related to the airborne epidemic transmissions of SARS-CoV-2 or coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).”

Page 57, line 1, strike “(e)” and insert “(f)”.

Page 56, after line 25, insert the following: “(gg) Provide laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work assisted, in whole or in part, under grants under this section be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 46, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Davis-Bacon Act’).”

(e) Limitation.—The Secretary may not provide a rebate under the program established under subsection (b) to an owner or operator of a qualified entity for expenditures made by the owner or operator of the qualified entity for an energy efficient electrotechnology that is used to replace a fossil fuel-fired technology.

Page 565, after line 20, insert the following: “(21) The term ‘economically distressed community’ means a unit of local government, an Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision thereof, that is significantly impacted by the closure occurring on or after January 1, 2010, of an electric generating station that primarily consumes coal as a fuel source, including by the loss of employment directly from or associated with the electric generating station, including an associated mine;

(22) Tax revenue, lease payments, or royalties directly from or associated with the electric generating station;

(23) Access to affordable energy.”

Page 565, line 28, strike “$50,000,000” and inserting “$30,000,000”.

Page 565, by striking “2006 through 2012” and inserting “2021 through 2025”.

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. O’HALLERAN OF ARIZONA

Add at the end of subtitle F of title XII the following:

SEC. 12607. COAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE.

(a) Establishment.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall establish, maintain, and make publicly available a clearinghouse known as the “Coal Community Resource Clearinghouse”, on the website of the Department of Energy for the purpose of increasing awareness of Federal and State programs, grants, loan guarantees, and other assistance resources the Secretary determines will assist economic development activities in economically distressed communities.

(b) Periodic Updates.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall, not less frequently than once per calendar year, update the Coal Community Resource Clearinghouse to address changes to the needs of economically distressed communities.

(c) Economically Distressed Community Defined.—The term “economically distressed community” means a unit of local government, an Indian Tribe, or a political subdivision thereof, that is significantly impacted by the closure occurring on or after January 1, 2010, of an electric generating station that primarily consumes coal as a fuel source, including by the loss of employment directly from or associated with the electric generating station, including an associated mine;

(1) Tax revenue, lease payments, or royalties directly from or associated with the electric generating station;

(2) Access to affordable energy.

AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MS. OMAR OF MINNESOTA

Add at the end of title XII the following:


SEC. 12701. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities for projects that are consistent with zero-waste practices.

(b) Grant Use.—

(1) Organic Recycling Infrastructure.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this subtitle may use grant funds to carry out a project relating to organics recycling infrastructure, including facilities, machinery, equipment, and other physical necessities required for organics collection or processing on a city-wide or county-wide scale, provided that—
(A) implementation of such project—
(i) results in increased capacity for residential and commercial source separated organics streams; and
(ii) promotes a usable product that has demonstrated environmental benefits when compared to the input materials, such as compost with added nutritional content; and
(B) such project does not include mixed-waste composting.

(2) ELECTRONIC WASTE REUSE AND RECYCLING.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this subtitle may use grant funds to carry out a project relating to electronic waste reuse or recycling, including infrastructure and technology, research and development, and product refurbishment, provided that such project—
(A) does not include an electronic waste “buy-back” program that provides compensation for used electronics where such compensation is applied as a credit toward the purchase of additional electronics; and
(B) is carried out by an organization certified in sustainable electronic waste standards by an organization accredited by the National Accreditation Board of the American National Standards Institute & The American Society for Quality, or another accrediting body as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(3) SOURCE REDUCTION.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this subtitle may use grant funds to carry out a project relating to source reduction, and such project may include—
(A) educational programming and outreach activities to encourage behavioral changes in consumers that result in source reduction; and
(B) product or manufacturing redesign or redevelopment to reduce byproducts, packaging, and other outputs if—
(i) the applicable manufacturer—
(I) is domestically-owned and operated; and
(II) pays a living wage; and
(ii) the redesign or redevelopment does not result in higher toxicity of the product or byproducts, more complicated recyclability of the product or byproducts, or increased volume of byproducts compared with the original product.

(4) MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this subtitle may use grant funds to carry out a project relating to market development with respect to source reduction and waste prevention, including by creating demand for sorted recyclable commodities and refurbished goods, and promoting domestically-owned and operated manufacturing for projects relating to source reduction or waste prevention, provided that such project—
(A) targets easily or commonly recycled materials which are disproportionately disposed of in landfills or incinerators;
(B) addresses the reduction of the volume, weight, or toxicity of waste and waste by-products; and
(C) does not conflict with—
(i) existing applicable laws, such as post-consumer recycled content requirements;
(ii) beverage container deposits;
(iii) programs funded through retail fees for specific classes of products that use such fees to collect, treat, or recycle such products; or
(iv) any applicable recycled product procurement requirements of expanded sustainable government purchasing requirements, as identified by the Administrator;

SEC. 12702. GRANT AWARDS.

(a) APPLICATION.—
(1) In general.—Any entity, to be eligible to receive a grant under this subtitle, an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time and in such form as the Administrator requires, demonstrating that the eligible entity—
(A) has set specific source reduction or waste prevention targets;
(B) will carry out such project in communities that are in the 60th percentile or higher for the pollutants as noted in the EJSCREEN tool, or any successor system, of the Environmental Protection Agency; and
(C) will carry out a project that meets the applicable project requirements under section 12701(b).

(2) ADDITIONAL APPLICATION CRITERIA FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—In the case of an application from an eligible entity that is a nonprofit organization, the application shall include a letter of support for the proposed project—
(A) from—
(i) a local unit of government; or
(ii) a nonprofit organization that—
(I) has a demonstrated history of undertaking work in the geographic region where the proposed project is to take place; and
(II) is not involved in the project being proposed; and
(B) containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(b) PRIORITY FACTORS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under this subtitle, the Administrator shall give priority to an eligible entity that—
(A) has set specific source reduction or waste prevention targets set by the local unit of government that is responsible for waste and recycling projects in the geographic area;
(B) demonstrates how the project to be carried out with grant funds could lead to the creation of new jobs that pay a living wage, with preference for projects that create jobs for individuals with barriers to employment, as determined by the Administrator;
(C) will use grant funds for source reduction or waste prevention in schools;
(D) will use grant funds to employ adaptive management practices to identify, prevent, or address any negative environmental consequences of the proposed project;
(E) have a demonstrated need for additional investment in infrastructure and projects to achieve source reduction and waste prevention targets set by the local unit of government that is responsible for waste and recycling projects in the geographic area; and
(F) will use grant funds to develop innovative or new technologies and strategies for source reduction and waste prevention;

(2) MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—In determining the priority between multiple eligible entities that qualify under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall give priority to an eligible entity that can demonstrate how the zero-waste hierarchy was considered with respect to the project to be carried out with grant funds.

(3) ZERO-WASTE HIERARCHY.—In determining priority between multiple eligible entities that qualify under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall give priority to an eligible entity that can demonstrate how the zero-waste hierarchy was considered with respect to the project to be carried out with grant funds.

SEC. 12703. REPORTING.

An eligible entity receiving a grant under this subtitle shall report to the Administrator an annual conference for eligible entities, including eligible entities that have received a grant under this subtitle, and other stakeholders as identified by the Administrator, to provide an opportunity for such eligible entities and stakeholders to share experience and expertise in implementing zero-waste practices.

SEC. 12705. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(a) ADDITIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—The term “additive management practices,” means, with respect to a project, the integration of project design, management, and communication to identify project impacts and outcomes as they arise and adjust behaviors to improve outcomes.

(b) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(c) DOMESTICALLY-OWNED AND OPERATED.—The term “domestically-owned and operated” means, with respect to a business, a business with—
(1) headquarters located within the United States; and
(2) primary operations carried out in the United States.

(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—
(1) a single unit of State, local, or Tribal government;
(2) a consortium of multiple units of State, local, or Tribal government;
(3) one or more units of State, local, or Tribal government in coordination with nonprofit or for-profit organizations; or
(4) one or more incorporated nonprofit organizations.

(e) EMBODIED ENERGY.—The term “embodied energy” means energy that was used to create a product or material.

(f) LIVING WAGE.—The term “living wage” means the minimum income necessary to allow a person working 40 hours per week to afford the cost of housing, food, and other material necessities.

(g) ORGANICS RECYCLING.—The term “organics recycling” means the biological processes by which organics streams are converted to compost which is not harmful to humans, plants, or animals.

(h) RECYCLING.—The term “recycling” means the mechanical processing of material that has reached the end of its current use into material to be used in the production of new products.

(i) SOURCE SEPARATION.—The term “source separation” means—
(1) activities that reduce consumption of products or services that create physical outputs, such as packaging, that is secondary to the intended use of the item being consumed;
(2) measures or techniques that reduce the amount of waste generated during production processes; and
(3) the reduction or elimination of the use of materials which are not able to be recycled without degrading the quality of the material; and

(j) INCINERATION.—The term “incineration” means—
(1) operations involving the mechanical processing of material that has reached the end of its current use into material to be used in the production of new products;

(2) MECHANICAL PROCESSING.—The term “mechanical processing” means the separation of material from its packaging; and

(3) THE PROJECT.—The term “the project” means—
(A) means—
(i) the project; or
(ii) the project and any relevant data requested by the Administrator; or

(B) a consortium of multiple units of State, local, or Tribal government.
(A) means the separation of a stream of recyclable materials at the point of waste creation before the materials are collected and centralized; and

(b) does not include technologies that sort mixed municipal solid waste into recyclable and non-recyclable materials.

(12) WASTE PREVENTION.—The term "waste prevention" means the implementation of cost-effective measures to reduce the amount of waste that is generated, recycled, andother methods to reduce the amount of materials disposed of in landfills or incinerated.

(13) ZERO-WASTE.—The term "zero-waste" means the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning or otherwise destroying embodied energy, with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

(14) ZERO-WASTE PRACTICE.—The term "zero-waste practice" means a practice used to help achieve zero-waste, including source reduction and waste prevention.

SEC. 12706. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subtitle $200,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MS. OMAR OF MINNESOTA

Add at the end of subtitle F of title XII the following:

Subtitle D—Interagency Task Force on Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Mitigation

SEC. 3401. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANT MITIGATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall establish a task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force on Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Mitigation.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the Task Force shall include the head (or a designee thereof) of each of—

(1) the Department of Agriculture;

(2) the Department of Commerce;

(3) the Department of Defense;

(4) the Department of Energy;

(5) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(6) the Department of the Interior;

(7) the Department of State;

(8) the Department of Transportation;

(9) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(10) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(11) the Council on Environmental Quality;

(12) the United States Agency for International Development; and

(13) any other Federal agency the President determines appropriate.

(c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

(1) evaluate the policy recommendations made by—

(A) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(B) the United States Climate Alliance; and

(C) the Intergovernment Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions;

(D) the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience; and

(E) the Clean Cooking Alliance;

(2) develop an action plan to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, including gaps and deficiencies that can be addressed through a combination of assessment, scientific research, monitoring, and technological development activities, with an emphasis on—

(A) industry standards; and

(B) public-private partnerships;

(3) identify any Federal program that is, or could be, relevant to reducing short-lived climate pollutants—

(A) in the United States; or

(B) worldwide;

(4) identify overlapping and duplicative Federal programs addressing short-lived climate pollutants and identify potential benefit from consolidation and streamlining;

(5) identify gaps and serious deficiencies in Federal programs targeted at short-lived climate pollutants, including gaps and deficiencies that can be addressed through international efforts to reduce black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons;

(6) prepare a comprehensive plan to address the identified gaps and deficiencies;

(7) not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report describing the findings and recommendations resulting from the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (6).

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title III, add the following:

Subtitle D—Black Carbon

SEC. 3401. REDUCTION OF BLACK CARBON EMISSIONS.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred to as the "Administrator"), in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall develop a comprehensive plan to reduce black carbon emissions from ships based on appropriate emissions controls over merchant ships. The plan shall provide for such reduction through—

(A) a clean freight partnership;

(B) limits on black carbon emissions; and

(C) the establishment of access to critical fuel shipments and emergency needs of coastal communities.

(2) ROADMAP.—A principal objective of the plan developed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be the establishment, in coordination with the Secretary of State, of a roadmap for helping countries to reduce fine-particle (PM2.5) and black carbon emissions in the shipping sector through—

(A) the installation of advanced emissions controls;

(B) the reduction of sulfur content in fuels; and

(C) the adoption of black carbon control policies.

(b) BLACK CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of State, and other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

(1) lead an effort to reduce black carbon through an Arctic-wide aspirational black carbon goal; and

(2) encourage observers of the Arctic Council (including the United States) to adopt mitigation plans consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council's Framework for Action on Black Carbon and Methane.

(c) CLIMATE AND CLEAN AIR COALITION.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of State, encouraged to work with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants to craft specific financing mechanisms for the reduction of national and international black carbon mitigation activities.

(d) BLACK CARBON MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) PRIORITIZATION.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in cooperation with the Administrator, shall—

(A) encourage black carbon mitigation activities as part of official development assistance and programmatic activities;

(B) give special emphasis to projects that produce substantial environmental, gender, livelihood, and public health benefits, including support for clean-burning cookstoves and fuels; and

(C) work with the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves to help developing nations establish thriving markets for clean and efficient cooking solutions.

(2) EMISSIONS REDUCTION.—The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Administrator, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Transportation, shall provide aid to international efforts to reduce black carbon emissions from ships and ships, 2-stroke engines, diesel generators, and industrial processes by providing technical assistance and programmatic activities;

(A) to help developing nations lower the sulfur content of diesel fuels;

(B) to expand access to diesel particulate filters; and

(C) to provide vehicle manufacturers with low- and zero-emission engine designs;

(D) to deploy on-road, off-road, and shore-side infrastructure to support zero-emission engine technologies;

(E) to develop other mitigation activities, including energy efficiency alternatives for generators and industrial processes; and

(F) to reduce ammonia emissions from agriculture.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA

Add after section 12606 the following:

SEC. 12607. PUBLICATION OF INTERCONNECTION SEAMS STUDY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of Energy shall submit to Congress and make publicly available on the website of the Department a report on the results of the Interconnection Seams Study conducted by the Department.

Page 9, after the matter relating to section 12506, insert the following:

Sec. 12607. Publication of Interconnection Seams Study.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

At the end of title II, add the following subtitle:

Subtitle G—Renewable Energy Grant Program

SEC. 2701. RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a renewable energy program (in this section referred to as the "program") under which the Secretary may award grants to covered entities to facilitate projects, in territories of the United States, described in subsection (c).

(b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under the program, a grantee shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and containing
such information as the Secretary may require.

(b) that has the ability—
(i) to disconnect from a traditional electric grid; and
(ii) to operate autonomously when disconnected.

(4) RENEWABLE ENERGY; RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM.—The terms “renewable energy” and “renewable energy system” have the meanings given in section 45(e) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6685(c)).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(6) SMART GRID.—The term “smart grid” means an intelligent electric grid that uses digital communications technology, information, and automation tools, while maintaining high system reliability—
(A) detect and react to local changes in usage;
(B) improve system operating efficiency; and
(C) reduce spending costs.

(7) TERRITORY.—The term “territory” means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that Department of Energy national laboratories offer to provide technical assistance to each covered entity carrying out a project assisted with a grant under the program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the establishment of the program, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing—
(1) an estimate of the amount of funds disbursed under the program;
(2) an estimate of the energy conservation achieved as a result of the program;
(3) a description of challenges encountered in implementing projects described in subsection (1); and
(4) recommendations as to additional legislative measures to increase the use of renewable energy in territories of the United States, as appropriate.

(1) A VANCE D ENER GY TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the Secretary, shall establish an initiative, to be known as the “Advanced Energy Technology Research Initiative”, to research and provide recommendations on how to improve the modeling, operational, and planning practices used for the bulk electric system.

(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish an advisory committee to research, report on, and provide recommendations on matters relating to the Initiative, including—
(i) whether the existing modeling and long-term and short-term planning practices used by grid operators for power systems, including power markets, adequately incorporate expected integration with respect to advanced energy technologies;
(ii) whether the methods used to determine future transmission and capacity needs and the reliability-related determinations use the right data to adequately forecast and model the integration of advanced energy technology into electric power systems;
(iii) whether the modeling, operational, and planning practices described in clause (i) need to be updated to better account for the integration of advanced energy technology into electric power systems;
(iv) any undue barriers to the adoption of advanced energy technology presented by—
(I) existing modeling, operational, and planning practices; and
(II) State estimation tools for planning and reliability; and
(v) any need to develop emerging technologies or software for use in improving modeling, planning, and operations in wholesale electricity markets to resolve computational or technical barriers to the adoption of advanced energy technology, including software relating to—

(b) standards developed to ensure that such systems are resilient.

Sec. 12701. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR RADON PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZED.

Section 301(c) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2665(c)) is amended by striking “1989, 1990, and 1991” and inserting “2021, 2022, and 2023”.

Sec. 12702. GRANT ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR RADON PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZED.


Sec. 12703. REGIONAL RADON TRAINING CENTER(S) REAUTHORIZED.


AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY OF ILLINOIS
After the item in the table of contents relating to section 5101, insert the following:

Subtitle G—Radon Abatement

Sec. 12701. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR RADON PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZED.

Section 301(c) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2665(c)) is amended by striking “1989, 1990, and 1991” and inserting “2021, 2022, and 2023”.

Sec. 12702. GRANT ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR RADON PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZED.


Sec. 12703. REGIONAL RADON TRAINING CENTERS REAUTHORIZED.


Sec. 5102. Definitions.

Sec. 5103. Power system modeling reform and updates to grid services and grid operator software.

Sec. 5104. Electric utility.

Sec. 5105. Power system modeling reform and updates to grid services and grid operator software.
(I) the use of big data, artificial intelligence, and probabilistic methods to predict, in near-real-time—
   (aa) energy generation from variable and distributed resources;
   (bb) load profiles; and
   (cc) consumption and congestion; and
(II) the use of artificial intelligence to improve the responsiveness of energy system operations;
(vi) whether existing and future grid reliability service definitions and the modeling techniques and operational processes, and planning processes used to procure grid reliability services—
(I) appropriately account for the technical and operational characteristics of advanced energy technologies;
(II) allow for the use of those advanced energy technologies to provide grid reliability services; and
(III) include appropriate cybersecurity safeguards; and
(vii) any rulemaking, technical conference, or policy statement that, in the determination of the Advisory Committee, the Commission should consider.
(2) COST SHARING.—In awarding Federal financial assistance (including grants, loans, and any other form of financial assistance) to fund eligible activities under this subsection, the Secretary shall require that sharing in accordance with section 986 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352).
(3) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the Advanced Energy Technology and Grid Services Program established under this subsection, the Secretary shall coordinate with existing programs of the Department of Energy that focus on grid modernization efforts.

SEC. 5104. ADVANCED ENERGY AND GRID EFFICIENCY STUDIES AND REPORT.

(a) STUDIES.—
   (1) ADVANCED ENERGY STUDY.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Commission, shall carry out a study of the costs and benefits to consumers of updating power system planning, modeling, and operational practices, including reliability-related planning, and energy market participation rules on advanced energy technologies and resources, including distributed energy technologies and resources—
   (A) energy storage technologies;
   (B) energy efficiency and transmission efficiency technologies;
   (C) distributed solar and wind energy generation;
   (D) fuel cells;
   (E) smart thermostats and smart building technologies;
   (F) demand response technologies, including natural gas demand response technologies;
   (G) advanced metering technologies;
   (H) electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
   (I) any aggregation of the distributed energy technologies described in subparagraph (A) or (C); and
   (J) any other advanced energy technologies, as determined by the Secretary.
   (2) GRID EFFICIENCY STUDY.—
      (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Commission, shall carry out a study of the barriers and opportunities for advanced energy technologies that provide increased, more efficient, or more effective delivery over the existing transmission network.
      (B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under subparagraph (A) shall include—
         (i) an examination of—
            (I) the reliability, resiliency, and economic benefits of technologies such as power flow control, topology optimization, and dynamic line ratings;

(II) the costs, benefits, and challenges associated with deployment of the advanced energy technologies described in subparagraph (A); and
(iii) the impact of grid efficiency improvements on wholesale and retail electricity rates; and
(ii) an analysis of the role of financial and regulatory incentives and the deployment of advanced energy technologies, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the studies under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of subtitle H of title I the following:

SEC. 1806. REMOVING BARRIERS TO EFFICIENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 327 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6297) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(1) SUSPENSION OF PREEMPTION.—This section shall not apply to a covered product during any period that—

   (A) begins on the date that is 8 years after the date on which the energy conservation standard was established under section 325 for the covered product; and
   (B) ends on the effective date of an energy conservation standard established after the date described in paragraph (1) under section 325 for the covered product, that is equivalent to, or more stringent than, the standard described in such paragraph.

(2) NO PREEMPTION ABSENT A FEDERAL STANDARD.—

   (A) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, this section does not apply to any State regulation insofar as the State regulation applies to any product not subject to an energy conservation standard established under section 325 for the covered product.

   (B) ASHRAE PRODUCTS.—Section 345(b)(2) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6297) is amended by adding at the end the following:

   '(E) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a standard prescribed or established under section 325(a) shall not supersede any State or local regulation concerning the energy efficiency or energy use of a product for which a standard is prescribed or established pursuant to such section during any period that—
   //
   (ii) ends on the effective date of a standard prescribed or established under section 325(a) that is equivalent to, or more stringent than, the standard described in such clause.'.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MR. RUSH OF ILLINOIS

At the end of part A of subtitle A of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12114. ENERGY JOBS COUNCIL AND ANNUAL ENERGY EMPLOYMENT REPORT.

(a) ENERGY JOBS COUNCIL.—
   (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

(II) establishes an annual energy employment report.
Secretary of Energy (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish a council, to be known as the “Energy Jobs Council” (referred to in this section as the “Council”).

(2) Membership.—The Council shall be comprised of—

(A) to be appointed by the Secretary—

(i) one or more representatives of the Energy Information Administration; and

(ii) one or more representatives of a State energy office that are serving as members of the State Energy Advisory Board established by section 365(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6235(g));

(B) to be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce—

(i) one or more representatives of the Department of Commerce; and

(ii) one or more representatives of the Bureau of the Census;

(C) one or more representatives of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to be appointed by the Secretary of Labor; and

(D) one or more representatives of any other Federal agency the assistance of which is required to carry out this Act, as determined by the Secretary, to be appointed by the head of the applicable agency.

(b) Survey and Analysis.—(1) The Council shall—

(A) conduct a survey of employers in the energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and motor vehicle sectors of the economy of the United States;

(B) perform an analysis of the employment figures and demographics in those sectors, including the number of personnel in each sector who devote a substantial portion of working hours, as determined by the Secretary, to compliance matters.

(2) Methodology.—In conducting the survey and analysis under paragraph (1), the Council shall employ a methodology that—

(A) was approved in 2016 by the Office of Management and Budget for use in the document entitled “OMB Control Number 1910–5179’’;

(B) uses a representative, stratified sampling of the components in the United States; and

(C) is designed to elicit a comparable number of responses from businesses in each State and with the same North American Industry Classification System codes as were received in the 2011 and 2017 reports entitled “U.S. Energy and Employment Report’’.

(3) Consultation.—In conducting the survey and analysis under paragraph (1), the Council shall consult with key stakeholders, including—

(A) as the Council determines to be appropriate, the heads of relevant Federal agencies and offices, including—

(i) the Secretary of Commerce;

(ii) the Secretary of Transportation;

(iii) the Director of the Bureau of the Census;

(iv) the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

(v) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) States;

(C) the State Energy Advisory Board established by section 365(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6235(g)); and

(D) energy industry trade associations.

(c) Report.—(1) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) make publicly available on the website of the Energy Information Administration a report, to be entitled the “U.S. Energy and Employment Report’’, describing the employment figures and demographics in the energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicle sectors of the United States based on the survey and analysis conducted under subsection (b); and

(B) subject to the requirements of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 107–347), make the data collected by the Council publicly available on the website of the Department of Energy.

(2) Contents.—

(A) In General.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include employment figures and demographic data for—

(i) the energy sector of the economy of the United States, including—

(I) the electric power generation and fuels sector; and

(II) the transmission, storage, and distribution sector;

(ii) the energy efficiency sector of the economy of the United States; and

(iii) the motor vehicle sector of the economy of the United States.

(B) Inclusion.—With respect to each sector described in subparagraph (A), the report under paragraph (1) shall include employment figures and demographic data sorted by—

(i) each technology, subtechnology, and fuel type of those sectors; and

(ii) subject to the requirements of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 107–347)—

(I) each State;

(II) each territory of the United States; and

(III) each county (or equivalent jurisdiction) in the United States.

(d) Amendment No. 6 Offered by Mr. Thompson of California

Add at the end of title II the following:

Subtitle G—Other

SEC. 2701. AMENDMENT TO ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005 DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY.

(a) In General.—Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “generated” and inserting “produced”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as paragraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, any energy that is avoided through the use of geothermal energy shall be considered to be renewable energy produced.”

(3) In General.—Section 203(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(I) the Administrator shall—

(a) STUDY.—In General.—The Administrator shall conduct a study to evaluate the effect of emissions from fossil fuel facilities on the health of environmental justice communities, including such effects on the environment or that result in adverse human health for such communities.

(b) Inclusion.—In evaluating effects under paragraph (1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall consider the distance between facilities and environmental justice communities.

(c) Report.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report that summarizes the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) Definitions.—In this section:

(A) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(B) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—The term “environmental justice community” has the meaning given such term in section 11001.
(A) describing the results of the assessment under subsection (a)(1); and

(B) recommending a standardized approach to calculating life cycle greenhouse gas emissions for low-carbon transportation fuels (liquid and nonliquid); and

(2) not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a report providing recommendations for a framework to assess environmental implications, in addition to greenhouse gas emissions, of low-carbon transportation fuels (liquid and nonliquid).

(3) LIFE CYCLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—The term ‘‘life cycle greenhouse gas emissions’’ means the aggregate quantity of greenhouse gas emissions (including direct emissions and significant indirect emissions such as significant emissions from land use changes), as determined by the Academy (or other appropriate entity) over the full life cycle of the respective greenhouse gases, across all stages of a given fuel’s supply chain, and calculated using emission factors that reflect the life cycle of the respective greenhouse gases, as adjusted by the Academy (or other appropriate entity).

(4) OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITY.—The term ‘‘other appropriate entity’’ means the other appropriate entity with which the agreement under subsection (a) is entered into if the Academy declines to enter into the agreement.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 557, line 24, strike ‘‘and’’.

Page 558, line 6, strike ‘‘census tracts.’’

Page 558, after line 6, insert the following: ‘‘census tracts; and’’.

Page 558, after line 6, insert the following: ‘‘(vi) to work in the design and construction of training and assessment centers.’’

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 41, line 7, strike ‘‘and’’.

Page 41, line 13, strike the period and insert ‘‘.’’

Page 41, after line 13, insert the following: ‘‘(7) to identify diverse candidates and firms when procuring for the design and construction of training and assessment centers.’’

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 664, line 21, strike ‘‘; and’’ and insert a semicolon.

Page 664, line 23, strike the period at the end and insert ‘‘; and’’.

Page 664, after line 23, insert the following: ‘‘(E) to work on the project will be of benefit or use to diverse and underserved communities.’’

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 101, line 11, strike ‘‘means’’ insert ‘‘a manufactured home (as such term is defined in section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402)), or’’.

Page 103, after line 20, insert the following:

(MULTIFAMILY BUILDING.—The term ‘‘multifamily building’’ means a structure with five or more tenant-occupied residential dwelling units that—

(A) is located in the United States;

(B) was constructed before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) is occupied at least 6 months out of the year.

(PART 5—CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY WORKFORCE

SEC. 12121. CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY WORKFORCE PROGRAM

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COAL-RELATED FACILITY.—The term ‘‘coal-related facility’’ includes a coal mine, coal-fueled electric generating facility, or coal-fueled electric generating facility.

(2) COAL-RELATED GENERATING FACILITY.—The term ‘‘coal-related generating facility’’ includes a facility that generates energy from coal, coal mining, or coal-related industrial facility.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘‘eligible entity’’ means a National Laboratory, business, or labor organization that demonstrates success in placing graduates of pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship programs in jobs relevant to such programs and that agrees to work in zero-emission electricity generation, energy efficiency, or grid modernization.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall establish a program to provide competitively awarded cost shared grants to eligible entities to pay for pre-apprenticeship training for individuals or on-the-job training of a new or existing employee in coal-related facilities or other energy related entity.

(c) GRANTS.—(1) Eligible entity means a National Laboratory, business, or labor organization that demonstrates success in placing graduates of pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship programs in jobs relevant to such programs and that agrees to work in zero-emission electricity generation, energy efficiency, or grid modernization.

(2) To work otherwise on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

(3) To participate in a pre-apprenticeship program that provides a direct pathway to an energy-related career in construction through one or more apprenticeship programs.

(c) GRANTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary of Energy an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information a the Secretary of Energy may require.

(PRIORITY FOR TARGETED COMMUNITIES.—In providing grants under the program, the
Secretary of Energy shall give priority to an eligible entity that—
(A) recruits employees—
(i) from the 1 or more communities that are served by the eligible entity; and
(ii) that are minorities, women, veterans, individuals from Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, or energy transition workers;
(B) offers students the opportunity to obtain real-world experience; or
(C) has fewer than 100 employees; and
(D) in the case of a pre-apprenticeship program, energy and natural resources, including those that could benefit the entirety of the existing reactor fleet, such as with respect to ensuring stable and reliable energy and carbon dioxide removal technologies and identifying funds awarded to private entities.
Page 407, line 11, insert “In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall convene an advisory committee of such individuals and such committee shall submit annually a report to the relevant committees of Congress with respect to the progress of the program.”

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. KRISHNAHMOORTHI OF ILLINOIS
Page 192, beginning on line 4, strike “eligible entity is located, which campaign shall include providing projected environmental benefits achieved under the project, where to find more information about the program established under this section, and any other information the Secretary determines necessary.”

AMENDMENT NO. 96 OFFERED BY MS. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS
At the end of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

SECTION 3113. CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL TASK FORCE.
(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in consultation with the head of any other relevant Federal agency, shall prepare a report that—
(1) the magnitude of excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that will need to be removed by 2050 to achieve net-zero emissions and stabilize the climate;
(2) inventories current and emerging approaches to carbon dioxide removal and evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of each such approach and identifies recommendations for legislation, funding, rules, revisions to rules, financing mechanisms, or other policy tools that the Federal Government can use to sufficiently advance development of carbon dioxide removal projects in order to meet, in the aggregate, the magnitude of needed removals estimated under paragraph (1), including policy tools such as—
(A) grants;
(B) loans or loan guarantees;
(C) public-private partnerships;
(D) direct payments;
(E) incentives, including subsidized Federal financing mechanisms available to project developers;
(F) advance market commitments;
(G) regulations; and
(H) any other policy mechanism determined by the Secretary to be beneficial for advancing carbon dioxide removal methods and the deployment of carbon dioxide removal projects.
(b) SUBMISSION; PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall submit the report prepared under subsection (a) to Congress. The Secretary shall submit the report prepared under subsection (a) to the Administrator of the Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committees of Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Administrator and representatives of the Committees of the House and Senate, as appropriate, require.

AMENDMENT NO. 97 OFFERED BY MS. BLUNT OF ROCHESTER, DELAWARE
Add at the end of title VI the following:

Subtitle G—Climate Action Planning for Ports
SEC. 6701. GRANTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AT PORTS.
(a) GRANTS.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may award grants to eligible entities—
(1) to implement plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at one or more ports or port facilities within the jurisdictions of the respective eligible entities; and
(2) to develop climate action plans described in subsection (b)(2).
(b) APPLICATION.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—To seek a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Administrator may require.
(2) CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.—At a minimum, each such application shall contain—
(A) a detailed and strategic plan, to be known as a climate action plan, that outlines how the eligible entity will develop and implement climate change mitigation or adaptation strategies in the grant area; or
(B) a request pursuant to subsection (a)(2) for funding for the development of a climate action plan.

(3) T H E R E F O R E , COM P O N E N T S . — A climate action plan under paragraph (2) shall demonstrate that the measures proposed to be implemented through the grant—
(A) reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the port or port facilities involved pursuant to greenhouse gas emission reduction goals set forth in the climate action plan;
(B) reduce air pollutants at the port or port facilities involved pursuant to criteria pollutant emission reduction goals set forth in the climate action plan;
(C) will implement emissions accounting and inventory practices to determine baseline emissions and measure progress; and
(D) will ensure labor protections for workers employed directly at the port or port facilities involved, including by—
(i) demonstrating that implementation of the measures proposed to be implemented through the grant will not result in a net loss of jobs at the port or port facilities involved;
(ii) ensuring that laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on construction projects to implement the plan will be paid wages not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor under sections 3141 through 3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40, United States Code; and
(iii) requiring any projects initiated to carry out the plan with total capital costs of $1,000,000 or greater to utilize a project labor agreement and not impact any preexisting project labor agreement.

(4) O T H E R C O M P O N E N T S . — In addition to the components required by paragraph (3), a climate action plan under paragraph (2) shall demonstrate that the measures proposed to be implemented through the grant will do at least 2 of the following:
(A) Improve energy efficiency at a port or port facility, including by using—
(i) alternative fuels, such as hybrid, low-emission, or zero-emission vehicles;
(ii) energy efficient cargo-handling, harbor vessels, or storage facilities such as energy-efficient refrigeration equipment;
(iii) energy-efficient lighting;
(iv) shore power; or
(v) other energy efficiency improvements.
(B) Advocacy or processes that reduce idling of vehicles at a port or port facility.
(C) Reduce the direct emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants with a goal of achieving zero emissions, including by replacing and retrofitting equipment (including vehicles onsite, cargo-handling equipment, or harbor vessels) at a port or port facility.

(5) P R O H I B I T E D U S E . — An eligible entity may not use a grant provided under this section to—
(A) purchase fully automated cargo handling equipment;
(B) to build, or plan to build, terminal infrastructure designed for fully automated cargo handling equipment;
(C) to purchase, test, or develop highly automated trucks, chassis, or any related equipment that could be used to transport containerized cargo;
(D) to extend to any independent contractor, independent owner, operator, or other entity supplying equipment or for the sake of performing work on terminal grounds.

(6) C O O R D I N A T I O N W I T H S T A K E H O L D E R S . — In developing a climate action plan under paragraph (2), an eligible entity shall—
(A) identify and collaborate with stakeholders who may be affected by the plan, including local environmental justice communities and other near-port communities;
(B) address the potential cumulative effects of the measures when those effects may have a community-level impact; and
(C) ensure effective advance communication with stakeholders to avoid and minimize conflicts.

(7) P R O I O R I T Y . — In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall give priority to applicants proposing—
(1) to strive for zero emissions as a key strategy within the grantee’s climate action plan under paragraph (2);
(2) to take a regional approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions at ports;
(3) to collaborate with near-port communities to identify and implement mutual solutions to reduce air pollutants at ports or port facilities affecting such communities, with emphasis given to implementation of strategies that can be applied communally to reduce pollution that is environmental justice communities;
(4) to implement activities with off-site benefits, such as by reducing air pollutants from vessel operations at sites other than the port or port facilities involved; and
(5) to reduce localized health risk pursuant to health risk reduction goals that are set within the grantee’s climate action plan under paragraph (2).

(8) M O D E L M E T H O D O L O G I E S . — The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—
(1) develop model methodologies which grantees under this section may choose to use for emissions accounting and inventory practices referred to in subsection (b)(3)(C); and
(2) ensure that such methodologies are designed to measure progress in reducing air pollution at near-port communities.

(9) D E F I N I T I O N S . — In this section:
(1) The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
(2) The term “cargo-handling equipment” includes—
(A) ship-to-shore container cranes and other cranes;
(B) container-handling equipment; and
(C) equipment for moving or handling cargo, including stevedores, reachstackers, top loaders, and forklifts.
(3) The term “eligible entity” means—
(A) a port authority;
(B) a State, regional, local, or Tribal agency that has jurisdiction over a port authority or a port;
(C) an air pollution control district; or
(D) a private entity (including any non-profit organization) that—
(i) applies for a grant under this section in collaboration with an entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); and
(ii) owns, operates, or uses a port facility, cargo equipment, transportation equipment, related technology, or a warehouse facility at a port or port facility.
(4) The term “environmental justice community” means a community with significant representation of communities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal and indigenous communities, that experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.
(5) The term “harbor vessel” includes a ship, boat, lighter, or maritime vessel designed for service at and around harbors and ports.

(6) The term “inland port” means a logistics or distribution hub that is located inland from navigable waters, where cargo, such as break-bulk cargo or cargo in shipping containers, is processed, stored, and transferred between trucks, rail cars, or aircraft.

(7) The term “port” includes an inland port.

(8) The term “stakeholder” means residents of environmental justice communities, businesses, business owners, labor unions, commission members, or groups from which a near-port community draws its resources that—
(A) have interest in the climate action plan of a grantee under this section; or
(B) can affect or be affected by the objectives and polices of such a climate action plan.

The first amendment would require the EPA to identify 100 communities across this country most affected by nearby sources of pollution and work to clean them up.

The second amendment that I have included, the bill would limit the amount of methane gas that oil drillers are allowed to release into our atmosphere from public lands. When we, as a nation, fail to enact measures like these, it is often the poorest among us who suffer the most.

Throughout this week, my colleagues to do the right thing, to help address these crises by supporting my amendments and all of the rest of the amendments included in this en bloc amendment.

Mr. Speaker. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Many of these amendments reflect, frankly, the costly Green New Deal policies of the Progressive left. We think they mandate dramatic and, frankly, unrealistic changes to our energy and transportation systems with little to no consideration for affordability and the reliability of energy for Americans, or our growing dependence on China for critical minerals.

That China supply chain is something I think we could find common ground on at some point, and we must, as a country.

The bill ignores hardworking blue-collar workers and rewards so-called green-collar workers instead.

Provisions that we thought we had reached common ground on in the Energy and Commerce Committee were stripped out.

These amendments will provide billions of dollars of additional grants and assistance to cities in urban areas, but at the expense of rural America. We are one country, and we should be united in assisting our people, regardless of where they live.

The amendments expand rebate programs and create a patchwork of new energy-efficiency standards, raising costs for consumers.

If there is one thing I hear most, it is people are concerned about how costs are going up, especially during this period.

They provide even more green giveaways, things like appliances and vehicles, at a time when most Americans are struggling with the economic fallout from this pandemic.

Clearly, Democrats want to spend the taxpayers’ dollars on their Green New Deal wish list, following the lead of California, who has had its own set of problems with reliability on its energy grid.

None of these issues raised by these amendments have gotten a hearing or debate in this Committee. One of them, dealing with the Klamath River Dams around my district, would short circuit the public licensing process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It steps all over this public process that is enshrined in law.

It is a blatant attempt to legislate the removal of these dams, and wherever you are on that issue—for or against removing the dams—we think this sets a dangerous precedent by rolling back the longstanding protections and due process afforded through the well-established Federal licensing process.

So both sides should be concerned about that amendment in this bill.

Republicans offered amendments to lower the cost of energy. We offered amendments to develop innovative new technologies, and we offered amendments to reduce permitting delays.

Unfortunately, Democrats refuse to let those amendments be debated on this House floor or voted on this House floor.

The Democratic amendments we are all debating today will not result in meaningful reforms to the permitting process and will not allow us to rebuild our economy and recover from the COVID pandemic.

So I have to urge my colleagues to join me in opposing these amendments and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I support the second amendment that I have offered, not as a critique of the underlying bill, but to fulfill a promise made to constituents where they live.

My amendment creates opportunities for workers at risk of being displaced so that they can begin or continue a career in construction.

For those in coal or other related industries, this amendment offers cost-shared grants to pay for pre-apprenticeship training in cleaner energy careers. My amendment prioritizes grants to entities that have a successful history of placing pre-apprentice graduates into full apprenticeship programs or into gainful employment, and it supports local businesses by creating a sliding scale of Federal cost-sharing, devoting a greater percentage of resources to small, local businesses rather than to larger businesses that already have the financial wherewithal to transition workers.

I urge a “yes” vote.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I have one more speaker who wanted to speak, but he is not here.

I apparently have the right to close, so if the gentlewoman would like to go ahead while we wait for our other Member, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would just say that the debate has been brief, but the substance of this en bloc amendment is large—many amendments designed in totality to deal with climate change to help our environment and to help make sure that we support disadvantaged communities in the American countryside and communities affected by environmental justice issues.

So I would just urge a “yes” vote on this en bloc amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, and I, again, think I outlined pretty clearly some of our concerns with this measure. I think there is a lot we could focus ground on in the energy picture, certainly for working Americans and especially those dealing with the pandemic. But raising costs and increasing delays is not part of what we can support.

I urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my amendment to H.R. 4447, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act.

This commonsense amendment clarifies that energy saved through the use of geothermal pumps qualifies as renewable energy produced for the purposes of this bill.

Battling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require an innovative, multi-pronged approach.

And geothermal pump technology must be a tool available for us to use.

Geothermal pumps work to reduce energy consumption by transferring and concentrating heat energy absorbed from the earth.

These installations can reduce energy use in buildings by over 40 percent.

My amendment clarifies that these energy savings count as renewable energy produced, recognizing that geothermal pumps remain a critical part of our effort to reduce emissions and defeat climate change.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

A motion to reconsider laid on the table.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have amendments en bloc at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE). The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 12, 13, 28, 30, 51 and 91, printed in part B of House Report 116–528, offered by Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey:

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12607. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Secretary of Energy shall report to Congress on the effect of variable and distributed energy resources on the reliability
of the electric grid, specifically pertaining to natural disasters and physical or cyber attacks on the grid infrastructure.

**AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS**

Add after section 13006 the following:

**SEC. 13007. REPORT ON DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AMONG APPLIED ENERGY PROGRAMS.**

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall report to Congress that includes the following:

1. A description of potential duplication of research efforts among the applied energy programs of the Department of Energy.
2. An evaluation of the opportunity costs associated with such duplication.
3. Recommendations on how to streamline the research grant process.
4. A description of the effects of combining projects that are duplicative with one another.

Page 9, after the matter relating to Section 13006, insert the following:

Sec. 13007. Report on duplication of efforts among applied energy programs.

**AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA**

Page 236, line 4, strike “‘and’.”
Page 236, after line 4, insert the following:

(ii) the ability to domestically source necessary critical mineral necessary for solar production; and

Page 236, line 5, strike “(ii)” and insert “(iii)”.

**AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA**

Page 466, line 23, after “program” insert “including increases or decreases in net imports of critical minerals as a result of activities carried out under this section”.

**AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. LUCAS OF OKLAHOMA**

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

**SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that in order to reduce global emissions and meet 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, or zero emission energy sources while maintaining U.S. competitiveness in science and technology, the United States must prioritize investment in domestic energy sources and supply chains, as well as investment in the research and development of exportable next-generation energy technologies.

**AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Page 425, line 20, strike “‘and’.”
Page 426, line 14, strike the period and insert “; and’.”
Page 426, after line 14, insert the following:

“(11) evaluate potential demonstration sites across the Department of Energy complex.”

**The SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

**Mr. PALLONE.** Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of these amendments which are focused on ways to improve options and reduce the cost of energy for American consumers. Our amendments put consumers first.

These amendments also address important issues such as grid reliability—that means when you flip the light switch, the lights come on consistently; streamlining research at the Department of Energy to promote innovation and technological development and nuclear research for advanced nuclear power.

There are also much-needed efforts to reduce our reliance on critical minerals, especially from China. Republicans have been sounding the alarm about our growing reliance on critical minerals and their use in all sorts of energy technologies. This is how we make batteries, windmills, and solar panels and we have become too dependent on foreign countries for those critical minerals.

We are also very concerned that the underlying bill, which is based on the Green New Deal, will trade away our energy independence and make us more reliant on countries like China and their abysmal record on human rights, environment, and trade.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these commonsense amendments to H.R. 4447, and I reserve the balance of my time.

**Mr. PALLONE.** Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will be speaking in opposition to this bloc of amendments.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have argued that this legislation picks winners and losers, and that amendments such as these might help level the playing field. But I don’t think that is the case.

The Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act authorizes investments in a broad range of programs to unleash American energy innovation and reform outdated policies that govern how we produce, distribute, and consume energy. Rather than picking winners and losers, this bill takes a portfolio approach to supporting the transition to a clean energy economy—a transition that is already underway, but not at the pace needed to avoid the worst and most costly consequences of climate change.

For years, rapidly declining costs for solar, wind, storage, and other technologies have made them cost-competitive with and, in many cases, more cost-effective than conventional technologies.

The Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act doubles down on these market trends, providing the tools, investments, and policy reforms needed for the United States to lead the world in transitioning to a cleaner future.

At the same time, the legislation invests in research, development, and deployment of technologies to reduce emissions from traditional sources of pollution. Importantly, it invests in carbon capture, utilization, and storage to help reduce emissions from existing facilities that are particularly challenging to decarbonize, especially in the industrial sector.

So rather than picking winners and losers, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act includes a broad array of tools to modernize our energy system. Taken together, these tools will help make our energy system cleaner, more efficient, more resilient, and more reliable.

That is why many pieces of this legislation have enjoyed such strong bipartisan support, because they are commonsense investments that will create jobs, protect consumers, and reduce pollution.

But these proposed amendments are not good faith efforts to build on this bipartisan foundation. They are an attempt to water down this legislation and slow the transition to a clean economy.

When we look across the globe, we see that this transition is already underway, but that the United States is falling behind. The real question is whether we want to regain our competitive edge and leadership in technology and innovation or whether we cede to the competition.

I urge my colleagues not to be distracted by talking points about picking winners and losers and focus on who actually wins when we invest in innovation. Consumers win, workers win, and our environment wins.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I oppose the en bloc amendments, and I reserve the balance of my time.

**Mr. WALDEN.** Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), who is the top Republican on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the former chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

**Mr. LUCAS.** Madam Speaker, my amendment contained within this en bloc emphasizes a critical priority for House Republicans. It expresses the sense of Congress that the United States must prioritize investment in domestic energy sources and supply chains, as well as in research and development of exportable next-generation energy technologies.

This is absolutely necessary if we are going to maintain our competitiveness in science and technology while reducing emissions. These priorities should play a key role in any realistic and responsible global clean energy strategy.

With the current public health crisis, there is need for sustainable domestic energy chains has never been more important. Whether it is medical supplies or energy sources, we need to be able to depend on our own resources if foreign supply is voluntarily or involuntarily cut off. That requires us to invest in basic research, which drives breakthrough technologies.

For example, due in part to Federal investment in R&D that has led to new
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horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technology, the American shale revolution has led the U.S. to be a net exporter of natural gas since 2018. This is how basic research results in energy independence, an achievement our Nation must prioritize for long-term success.

Basic research is also instrumental in the fight against climate change. For emissions reduction technologies like carbon capture, storage, and utilization to be effective, they must be used commercially.

Over the past 20 years, Asia has accounted for 90 percent of all coal-fired capacity built worldwide, and these plants have potentially long operational lifetimes ahead of them. We can’t force them to change their energy profile and amount of emissions, but we can make cleaner energy technology appealing by making it efficient, inexpensive, and commercially marketable.

If fundamental clean energy research is conducted here in the United States and developed into deployable technology, we can export the resulting knowledge, tools, and energy itself, as I mentioned with natural gas. By investing in our companies, we can grow our industry, reduce our reliance on foreign countries for innovation, and, most importantly, make a significant impact on mitigating the effects of global climate change.

If we want to innovate, and we want to export our technologies, we have to focus on breakthrough science, not on propelling up mature energy technologies and slowing the development of new ones.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this position, my amendment, and this en bloc.

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

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters that we received in support of the legislation from U.S. PIRG and the League of Conservation Voters.

DEAR KATIE: On behalf of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Environment America and our tens of thousands of members, we urge you to support the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act (H.R. 4447). This bill works to turn our energy values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the National Environmental Scorecard, which details the voting record of Congress on environmental legislation. The Scorecard is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

As the House debates H.R. 4447, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act, LCV urges you to support the pro-environment amendments and reject weakening or anti-environment amendments, as listed below, and vote YES on final passage. This bill includes many great provisions to develop and deploy renewable and distributed energy resources; improve the resiliency of our homes, schools, and businesses; electrify our transportation sector; modernize the grid and enhance its resiliency; prioritize the needs of environmental justice communities; reduce climate pollution from industrial and traditional sources, and from ambient air. Though we do not support increased funding for projects that could extend the life of fossil fuel-burning power plants or aging nuclear power infrastructure or prop up undeveloped new nuclear projects, many of the provisions that are a priority for our communities are facing major flooding, and southern states are being battered with hurricanes. The climate crisis is here and if we want to have any chance of avoiding its impacts, it is important that we take swift action. The “Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act” marks significant progress in the transition to a clean energy future and in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Among the most impactful pieces, the legislation includes provisions that:

Protect hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are extraordinarily potent climate pollutants, with hundreds to thousands of times the heat-trapping power of CO2.

ventas: Coal-Osasco-Cortez increases authorizations for renewable energy R&D accounts by 50% and adds an authorization for total funding for research, development, demonstration and commercialization activities for energy efficiency and renewable energy R&D.

Invest over $36 billion for transportation electrification, including grants and rebates to deploy electric vehicles and related charging infrastructure.

Direct DOE to establish new model building codes for states to improve energy efficiency;

Preserve a policy that will eliminate all fossil fuel-generated energy from federal buildings by the year 2030.

In addition to supporting the overarching bill, U.S. PIRG and Environment America urge the following votes on amendments:

Yes on Amendment 32. This amendment, sponsored by Reps. Haaland, Tsaih and Ocasio-Cortez increases authorizations for renewable energy R&D accounts by 50% and adds an authorization for total funding for research, development, demonstration and commercialization activities for energy efficiency and renewable energy R&D.

Yes on En Bloc 1, Yes on En Bloc 2, No on En Bloc 3, YES on En Bloc 4.

Sincerely,

KATIE MURTHA,
Vice President of Government Affairs,
U.S. PIRG and Environment America.

LCV
WASHINGTON, DC, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020.
Re Support H.R. 4447 and its pro-environment amendments.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn our energy values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the National Environmental Scorecard, which details the voting record of Congress on environmental legislation. The Scorecard is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

As the House debates H.R. 4447, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act, LCV urges you to support the pro-environment amendments and reject weakening or anti-environment amendments, as listed below, and vote YES on final passage. This bill includes many great provisions to develop and deploy renewable and distributed energy resources; improve the resiliency of our homes, schools, and businesses; electrify our transportation sector; modernize the grid and enhance its resiliency; prioritize the needs of environmental justice communities; reduce climate pollution from industrial and traditional sources, and from ambient air. Though we do not support increased funding for projects that could extend the life of fossil fuel-burning power plants or aging nuclear power infrastructure or prop up undeveloped new nuclear projects, many of the provisions that are a priority for our communities are facing major flooding, and southern states are being battered with hurricanes. The climate crisis is here and if we want to have any chance of avoiding its impacts, it is important that we take swift action. The “Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act” marks significant progress in the transition to a clean energy future and in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

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Yes on En Bloc 1, Yes on En Bloc 2, No on En Bloc 3, YES on En Bloc 4.

Sincerely,

KATIE MURTHA,
Vice President of Government Affairs,
U.S. PIRG and Environment America.
74. Rouda (CA) #12—Vote Yes.

This amendment would allow states to set appliance energy efficiency standards if the Department of Energy (DOE) missed statutory deadlines to review and issue new standards.

88. Waters (CA) #103—Vote Yes.

This amendment would require the DOE analyze state grants on smart manufacturing to see if they benefit diverse communities.

EN BLOCK #1

34. Harder (CA) #135—Vote Yes.

This amendment would create a program to improve wildfire smoke modeling and predictions of smoke severity and direct the EPA to better research the negative health effects from wildfire smoke.

68. Pingree (ME), Spanberger (VA) #29—Vote Yes.

This amendment would add agricultural, grazing, and forestry practices to DOE’s priorities in its carbon removal research and development, in order to advance natural systems’ ability to capture and store carbon.

ANTIOENVIRONMENT AMENDMENTS INCLUDE

EN BLOCK #3

91. Wilson, Joe (SC) #40—Vote No.

This amendment would require DOE to evaluate potential sites in the DOE footprint for advanced nuclear research and demonstration programs.

We urge you to SUPPORT H.R. 4447 and the pro-environment amendments listed above, and oppose anti-environment amendments. We will strongly consider including votes on this legislation in the 2020 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call my office at (202) 760-6863 and ask to speak with a member of our government relations team.

Sincerely,
GÈNE KARPINSKÈ.
President.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I wanted to reference some parts of this. With regard to the League of Conservation Voters, they specifically say that, with regard to H.R. 4447, they urge support for the legislation in general and specifically ask that we reject weakening the antienvironmental amendments as listed below, and that includes this amendment en bloc No. 3. They say that we should vote “no” because it would require the Department of Energy to evaluate potential sites in the DOE footprint for advanced nuclear research and demonstration programs.

In addition to that, in the letter from U.S. PIRG, it says: “On behalf of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Environmental America, and our tens of thousands of members, we urge you to support the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act.”

It talks about how the West is on fire and the hurricanes. “The climate crisis is here, and if we want to have any chance of avoiding its worst impacts, it is imperative that we take swift ac-

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentle-
man from New Jersey has 6 minutes re-
maining. The gentleman from Oregon has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may con-

Sincerely,

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time each side has re-

Madam Speaker, first of all, I wanted to rebut what was just said by my colleague on our committee from the other side. The reality is that this bill is designed with the hope that we can come to a consensus on an energy package with the Senate on a biparti-

In fact, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Joe Manchin are putting together an emergency package, which is not exactly the same as this, but the idea would be that we would have some kind of informal conference and actu-

So I don’t want anyone here to think that this is a message vehicle. This is a vehicle that is exactly designed to try to reach an agreement on an en-

Madam Speaker, I also want to rebut the idea—somehow there is always this suggestion that when you do anything on our side of the aisle that it is not helping create more jobs. The reality is this bill is designed to do exactly that, to create more jobs. The bill supports the energy industry by providing re-

Clean energy, renewables, and energy efficiency sectors employ millions of Americans. As democracies, as we know, technologies increases and as prices de-

My colleagues on the other side keep thinking of the energy sector as something that is totally oriented toward fossil fuels. The reality is that other countries, and us, we have to move to-ward a clean energy future that is look-

The bill includes workforce provisions that help provide training and transition resources for the energy sector.
related industries. It trains underserved groups, including women, minorities, veterans, and unemployed energy workers, for energy careers. It supports the industries and jobs we need to navigate the energy transition.

Again, I am not someone who says that we should not go to brown coal energy sectors. We are going to need everything. But the bottom line is, we do have to think that, in the future, there is going to be a lot more in the clean energy sector than solar and wind. And while other countries are starting investing in and promoting the technologies, we are going to be left behind, and we are going to lose jobs. This helps us gain those jobs.

I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

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

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my friend from New Jersey, Mr. Lujan, who noted that the Congressional Budget Office’s score on this bill was zero.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, this bill authorizes $135 billion in new programs. And so if my friend from New Mexico is suggesting that this whole thing, if we don’t do that and my friends across the aisle do not anticipate actually seeking appropriations for this legislation, then it would be very interesting to hear those comments, but I think to suggest that the bill does not implicate appropriations is simply misleading, and I would urge that we have more transparency in this process.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Oregon for yielding.

Madam Speaker, first of all, I respond to comments earlier from my friend from New Mexico (Mr. Lujan), who noted that the Congressional Budget Office’s score on this bill was zero.

Madam Speaker, we have two amendments that are in this en bloc, and what they do is, they focus on the critical minerals, the rare Earth minerals that are important components of renewable energy. It is what is used in solar panels. It is what is used in energy storage technology. You can’t suddenly say, Hey, we are going to use renewables, and not address this component.

What happens is the United States has become energy independent, and we have done that because of the policies that have been enacted over the last few years. What this bill does, is by not addressing the critical minerals, we become energy dependent again. We become dependent upon China, dependent upon Africa, and other nations where China controls the resources. Why would we do that to ourselves?

So we have an amendment in this en bloc that helps to address that because we have those minerals right here in the United States. Why in the world would we go mine them in other countries that are not necessarily up to our standards to where you have a net adverse impact on the global environment?

Madam Speaker, this is trying to nationalize California policy—the 8th amendment. The worst disaster states is in California, twice the electricity costs of my home State of Louisiana. Why would we want to do that to Americans, disproportionately impacting the poor?

So we set up this farce process where this amendment goes down to where we miss the opportunity to ensure that we truly advance an America-first independent energy policy.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to this underlying legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, what I get from the other side of the aisle is that somehow they think that the way to live in splendid isolation here, I mean, that might have been nice in the 19th century or the 18th century, or whenever, but that is not the reality of today. The reality is we are in constant competition around the world.

And while other countries move towards a clean economy—whether it is Europe, Japan, whatever it is—they are then investing—not just them, China, India—they are then investing in these renewable technologies. I could use solar energy as an example: We had taken the initiative a few years ago to actually invest in solar panels and wind turbines and the technologies that were coming about, we would have been able to sell a lot more of those panels and those turbines around the world and also use them for our own clean economy or clean initiatives.

Instead, we didn’t, and now most of the solar panels are built in China, exported to the United States, and you cannot fall behind. If you fall behind in these technologies, then you are not going to be competitive, and you are going to lose out on this race, and you are going to have fewer jobs. You can’t just put your head in the sand, like some kind of ostrich, and say to the rest of the world, We don’t care, it doesn’t matter. It does matter.

And all we are saying in this bill—and this is not the major major climate bill that we would have to do eventually—is this a down payment. And the idea is to look at certain things that we can do now to invest in technology, to look at innovation so that we don’t fall behind, and we create the clean jobs of the future.

In addition to that, the bill deals with energy efficiency, which is something that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have never opposed—more resiliency. These are things that are important to deal with the climate changes that have occurred, to deal with the wildfires, to deal with the hurricanes, so that our grid and everything is more resilient and we can deal with the impact of the climate crisis.

Madam Speaker, I know that I am not going to be able to convince most Republicans to support this. I am hoping that some will, and I am hoping that when we get to conference and we have conversations with the Senate, that we can actually do some kind of down payment in terms of creating the clean jobs of the future. And then in the next session of Congress, we will do a much larger initiative dealing with climate change.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much each side has remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the chairman and I have had a wonderful working relationship during our time on Energy and Commerce. I understand where he is headed with this. I just wish some of the things had been agreed to in a bipartisan way and the committee would have held firm as we moved forward with energy legislation. Everybody has got to do it their own way.

I always figured that if I could come out of the House with a 300- or 400-vote margin and a big bipartisan push, we would have a lot more with our friends in the Senate, regardless of who controlled the Senate. But a different path has been chosen here.

Part of what we are concerned about on the Republican side is this supply chain vulnerability during this pandemic. In fact, the very face mask that we are wearing—this one, actually, my shake—were we couldn’t get because China locked it down.

We have seen that play out. Heck, you couldn’t even get toilet paper and...
paper towels. Now that wasn’t necessarily a China problem, but supply chains matter. Reliability on supply chains matters.

And we have, as a country, locked up access to many of our areas on mining where we would get critical minerals. And we have relied on other countries and now, principally, China for our critical mineral supply chain. And you have to have that for your mobile phones, you have to have it for batteries and a lot of things. Frankly, we all agree on, is the future for technology requires critical minerals.

And meanwhile, China has gone around the world and locked up these resources in Africa and elsewhere, and as a result, they are really dominant in this space. And I don’t want us to be reliant on any other country, if we can avoid it. I realize we are global and there are things we don’t have here that we need to acquire elsewhere.

Madam Speaker, we offered up these amendments and we look forward to further debate.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I am certainly sympathetic to this idea that we have to do more manufacturing here and not rely on overseas, but I believe very strongly that is what this bill is all about. It accomplishes the goal of moving forward with clean energy innovation and technology and bringing more manufacturing here. And I believe the amendment, this en bloc amendment, will not help in that regard and, in fact, makes this a bill less prone to accomplishing the goal of clean energy and job creation.

Madam Speaker, I would urge opposition to the en bloc amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The en bloc amendments were rejected.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MS. HAALAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 32 printed in part B of House Report 116–538.

MS. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, in the table of contents, after the matter relating to section 2562, insert the following:

PART 5—ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 2571. Authorization of appropriations.

(1) $411,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;
(2) $463,050,000 for fiscal year 2022;
(3) $486,202,500 for fiscal year 2023;
(4) $510,512,625 for fiscal year 2024; and
(5) $588,059,215 for fiscal year 2025.

Page 254, strike lines 4 through 8 and insert the following:

(1) $163,690,000 for fiscal year 2021;
(2) $171,980,000 for fiscal year 2022;
(3) $180,589,500 for fiscal year 2023;
(4) $189,618,975 for fiscal year 2024; and
(5) $199,099,923 for fiscal year 2025.

Page 275, strike lines 4 through 8 and insert the following:

(1) $182,062,500 for fiscal year 2021;
(2) $199,125,000 for fiscal year 2022;
(3) $216,187,500 for fiscal year 2023;
(4) $225,750,000 for fiscal year 2024; and
(5) $227,012,500 for fiscal year 2025.

Page 295, line 23, through page 296, line 18, and insert the following:

(1) $229,125,000 for fiscal year 2021, including $166,870,000 for marine energy and $62,062,500 for hydropower research, development, and demonstration activities;”.

(2) $236,517,450 for fiscal year 2022, including $174,854,800 for marine energy and $62,062,500 for hydropower research, development, and demonstration activities;”.

(3) $244,187,873 for fiscal year 2023, including $188,283,343 for marine energy and $63,924,530 for hydropower research, development, and demonstration activities;”.

(4) $252,147,209 for fiscal year 2024, including $186,304,944 for marine energy and $66,842,263 for hydropower research, development, and demonstration activities;”.

(5) $259,046,837 for fiscal year 2025, including $192,889,304 for marine energy and $67,177,533 for hydropower research, development, and demonstration activities.”.

Page 299, after line 8, insert the following:

PART 5—ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 2571. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy for their designee to carry out research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities under the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy—

(1) $229,125,000 for fiscal year 2021;
(2) $236,517,450 for fiscal year 2022;
(3) $244,187,873 for fiscal year 2023;
(4) $252,147,209 for fiscal year 2024; and
(5) $259,046,837 for fiscal year 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the gentleman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer this amendment with my cosponsors, Representatives TLAIB and O’CAISIO-CORTEZ, in order to address us all on the path to a renewable future.

Our amendment increases the authorization levels for solar, wind, geothermal and water-based energy research and development programs by 50 percent over levels currently in the bill for each of the 5 years the bill covers.

The amendment also adds an overall authorization level for research, development, deployment, and commercial application activities within DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. For each of the 5 years in the bill, those authorization levels are 110 percent of the funding levels for the carbon pollution reduction R&D activities in the bill.

Technological innovation has long been seen as an important part of our efforts to take on climate change, in part by access to reduce air pollution. Increasing the efficiency of solar cells and wind turbines, developing new marine hydrokinetic generation technologies and lighter electric motors, and improving the storage capabilities and lifetime of batteries are just some of the innovations that will help us get to a 100 percent clean energy system.

But according to the International Energy Agency’s Global Status of Clean Energy Innovation Report for 2020, research and development spending on clean energy by its member countries has been relatively flat since 2012, after a doubling spurt between 2008 and 2012. Despite that doubling, public government spending on R&D remains below the levels it was in the 1980s.

Private sector spending has fluctuated with economic cycles—while there have been some, like the 2007–2008 financial crisis and the 2014 oil price crash led to slowdowns in corporate clean energy R&D, and the share of global early stage venture capital investment going into clean energy has halved since 2012. The public spending on R&D remains below the levels it was in the 1980s.

And now, the COVID–19 pandemic has had a dramatic negative impact on private sector funding for clean energy innovation, which is likely to cause setbacks to the timeline for developing and improving clean energy technologies.

The pandemic will also hurt demonstration projects and early adoption of technologies that provide essential opportunities for us to “learn by doing” and figure out how to overcome practical obstacles to widespread deployment of new technologies.

The timing is extremely unfortunate because, as the IZA report makes clear, we need to be accelerating clean energy innovation to give the world the best chance to achieve our climate goals, and without strong sustained investment, our chances of success are dwindling.

Madam Speaker, that is why our amendment is so important. With climate change accelerating, we can’t afford to wait. We need to develop and deploy renewable energy widely soon, and to do that, the Federal Government needs to invest in R&D and in deployment and the technology maturation needed to enable widespread adoption of renewables and their integration into our energy system.

This clean energy investment will be good for our planet and good for taxpayers. Public renewable energy R&D in the United States has delivered a 27 percent return on investment since 1980, with the same 47:1 cost ratio of 33:1. By making these investments, we are sending the message that renewable energy is our future, and we are committing to making that a reality.
Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in sending that message by voting for our amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), the distinguished member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

We have heard the same sensible logic from our side of the aisle countless times over the past 24 hours as we have debated this bill and these amendments. The package is over-funded, incorrectly prioritized, and a partisan process nightmare.

So in a way, I guess it is fitting that this is the only stand-alone amendment we will consider today. It is one that is seeking even more funding for one of this bill’s most misguided priorities.


Let me tell you, the Democrats’ unyielding focus on massive increases to applied energy and, in particular, for the DOE’s already well-funded Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is the most contentious issue here.

By now, I am sure you can all say it along with me, but I cannot stress it enough: It is basic research, not applied energy, that will put us in the best global position to develop the above energy strategy, and, yes, lay the foundation for our clean and affordable energy future for generations to come.

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has grown considerably, starting with what was supposed to be a temporary recovery in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Remember that? Temporarily.

What was it President Reagan said? There is nothing more permanent on Earth than a temporary government program. Here is a great example. Today it is funded at $2.8 billion, with an above average annual growth rate of—check this out—49 percent! And wind power has tripled over the past decade, Texas being the leader. These industries don’t need our support for deployment. They are already in the market and growing, for Pete’s sake.

This kind of duplicative and short-sighted strategy, while it may result in politically expedient talking points—I give y’all that.

Madam Speaker, I hope that we will vote against this. I hope you will help us, Madam Speaker.

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, in closing, I would just like to say it again: Technological innovation has long been seen as an important part of our efforts to take on climate change and increase access to energy, and my amendment will strengthen our investment in innovation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND).

The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and the ayes appear to have it.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.
any agency, authority, corporation, or instrumentality of one or more State political subdivisions; and
(3) an investor-owned utility.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MR. HARDER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 891, line 12, insert "(as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)))" after "education"

Page 891, line 15, insert "outreach, and community engagement," after "research".

Page 891, line 16, insert ", including the health of outdoor workers," after "public health"

Page 891, after line 20, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent subparagraph accordingly):

(B) Priority.—In selecting institutions of higher education at which to establish a center under this paragraph, the Administrator shall give priority to institutions that—

(i) have established expertise or dedicated centers for air quality research;

(ii) have experience with relevant outreach and extension work;

(iii) have established relationships with relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, community organizations, and Indian Tribes; and

(iv) are located in an area that is economically or environmentally impacted by wildfire smoke.

Page 893, line 18, strike "require." and insert "require, which shall include plans to collaborate with a public institution of higher education or other research institution that—"

Page 893, after line 18, insert the following:

(A) has established expertise or dedicated centers for air quality research;

(B) has experience with relevant outreach and extension work;

(C) has established relationships with relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, community organizations, and Indian Tribes; and

(D) is located in an area that is economically or environmentally impacted by wildfire smoke.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA

Redesignate section 12066 as section 12068.

Page 898, after line 6, insert the following new sections:

SEC. 12066. WILDFIRE SMOKE EMISSIONS MODELING AND FORECASTING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in collaboration with other Federal agencies and such academic entities as the Administrator considers appropriate, shall establish a program to improve wildfire smoke emissions modeling and develop smoke forecasts.

(b) Goal.—The goal of the program under subsection (a) shall be to develop and extend accurate wildfire smoke forecasts and impact-based decision support services in order to reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy with a focus on—

(1) improving modeling of wildfire smoke emissions, transport, mixing, and chemical transformations through advanced modeling approaches;

(2) developing and disseminating smoke forecasts; and

(3) incorporating risk communication research in developing smoke forecasts and wildfire smoke emission products.

(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 12067. EXPOSURE TO WILDFIRE SMOKE AND AIR POLLUTION.

(a) Impacts of Acute Exposure to Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall coordinate data collection and epidemiological analysis of the impacts of acute air pollution exposure from wildfires in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) Chronic Exposure.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, acting through the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, shall coordinate with academic institutions and other research organizations to conduct research to estimate the impacts of chronic exposure to air pollutants, and other pertinent variables, in the context of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY OF CALIFORNIA

Page 46, after line 3, insert the following:

PART 4—NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 1122. RESEARCH FOR EFFECTIVENESS AND STANDARDS.

The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) collect data following wildfires in the wildland-urban interface related to the influence of building materials on structural fire performance, and how wind, terrain, and moisture affect wildland fires;

(2) contribute to the scientific basis for analyzing economic outcomes of wildfires in the wildland-urban interface fire mitigation by conducting research on and developing metrics for the—

(A) relative contribution of moisture, weather, terrain, and infrastructure;

(B) losses and erosion of the forest floor resulting from wildfires in the wildland urban interface; and

(C) the performance of current designs, materials, and technologies used for—

(i) residential structures;

(ii) public and Federal government buildings;

(iii) electric grid infrastructure; and

(iv) other critical infrastructure.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. PANTITH OF CALIFORNIA

Page 521, after line 10, insert the following:

(‘‘h) Critical Infrastructure and Microgrid Research Program.—The Secretary shall establish a research, development, and demonstration program to improve the energy resilience of critical infrastructure, including through the use of microgrids, during extreme weather events including extreme heat and wildfires. This program shall focus on developing technologies that—

(1) improve the energy resilience and meet the power needs of critical infrastructure, including through the use of microgrids, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and on-site storage; and

(2) improve the energy efficiency of critical infrastructure;

(3) decrease the size and cost of on-site backup generators for critical infrastructure;

(4) provide on-site back-up power with renewable and low-carbon liquid fuels; and

(5) ensure safe power up and power down of critical infrastructure when necessary, as well as the transfer to backup sources of power for uninterrupted electricity service, including the use of microgrids.’’.

Page 499, line 20, strike ‘‘and’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. PANettiTA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 135, line 3, strike ‘‘and’’.

Page 135, line 14, strike the period and insert ‘‘and’’.

Page 135, after line 14 insert the following new subparagraph:

(‘‘e) to enhance or expand the use of materials that are resistant to high heat and fire in dwellings occupied by low-income persons in areas at risk from drought and wildfires.

Page 136, line 12, strike ‘‘and’’.

Page 136, after line 17 insert the following new subparagraph:

(‘‘f) improve measures to enhance health and safety through use of materials that are resistant to high heat and fire in areas at risk from drought and wildfires.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MS. PINGREE OF MAINE

Page 361, line 24, strike ‘‘and’’.

Page 362, line 2, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

Page 362, after line 2, insert the following:

(‘‘b) the activities described in subsection (a)(4), acting through the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(2) the activities described in subsection (a)(5), acting through the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MR. SCHRAIDER OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle H of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1806. HOME WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION REBATE PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘‘Home Wildfire Risk Reduction Rebate Program,’’ and provide rebates to homeowners to defray the costs of retrofitting an existing home to be wildfire-resistant.

(b) Amount of Rebate.—In carrying out the Home Wildfire Risk Reduction Rebate Program, the Secretary shall provide a homeowner a rebate of up to—

(1) $10,000 for the retrofitting of roof features, including the rafter, rafter rafters, soffit and fascia, and gutters, to be wildfire-resistant;

(2) $20,000 for the retrofitting of exterior wall features, including sheathing and siding, doors, and windows, to be wildfire-resistant;

(3) $5,000 for the retrofitting of a deck, including the decking, framing, and fascia, to be wildfire-resistant; and

(4) $1,500 for the retrofitting of near-home landscaping, including mulch and landscape fabric in a 5-foot zone around the home and under all attached decks, to be wildfire-resistant.

(c) Eligibility.—For purposes of this section, the cost of a retrofit shall include all costs associated with the retrofit, including the purchase and installation of wildfire-resistant products and components.

(d) Limitation.—The amount of the rebate under this section shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the retrofit.

(e) Process.—(1) Forms; Rebate Processing System.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a system which shall serve as a database and
Amendment No. 82 offered by Mr. Thompson of California

At the end of title V the following:  

Subtitle E—Utility Resilience and Reliability

§ 5501. RELIABILITY OF BULK-POWER SYSTEM

(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Electric Reliability Organization shall file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission a proposed reliability standard, under section 215(d) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(d)), that addresses the reliability of the bulk-power system and suggestions for how to—

(1) prepare for and adapt to changing conditions;

(2) withstand and rapidly recover from disruptions, including disruptions caused by extreme weather conditions.

(b) RELIABILITY STANDARD.—The proposed reliability standard filed under subsection (a) shall take into account regional differences.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “bulk-power system”, “Electric Reliability Organization”, and “reliability standard” have the meanings given those terms in section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o).

SEC. 5502. ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Energy shall establish a program to provide information and recommendations to States and electric utilities on how to improve the resilience of electric grids in regards to climate change and extreme weather events.

(b) ELECTRIC UTILITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “electric utility” has the meaning given such term in section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o).

(c) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall establish procedures for certifying that the household of a homeowner is moderate-income or moderate-inCOME for purposes of this section.

(2) LIMITATION FOR MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.—Notwithstanding subsection (d), for households of homeowners that are certified pursuant to the procedures established under paragraph (1) as moderate-income, the amount of the rebate under this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the cost of the retrofit.

(3) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to—

(A) provide information to households of homeowners that are certified pursuant to the procedures established under paragraph (1) as moderate-income regarding other programs and resources relating to assistance for upgrades of homes including the weatherization assistance program implemented under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.); and

(B) refer such households, as applicable, to such other programs and resources.

(4) CONCLUSIONS FOR DISASTER RECIPROCATORS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall support research and development on tools, techniques, and technologies for improving electric grid and energy sector safety and resilience in the event of multiple simultaneous or co-located weather or climate events leading to extreme wind, wildfires, and extreme heat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, all we have to do is look at the last few weeks in my great State of California and see record wildfires, 3.6 million acres and counting. And we have seen this all throughout the Western United States, truly unprecedented.

And we also have seen smoke. All I had to do a few weeks ago is just open the window, even though I am miles away from the center of any of the wildfires, and we could see the thick, dark smoke, gray and orange. We saw the pictures in the city of San Francisco. It is truly unprecedented in our great State of California.

The amendment that we are offering will hopefully uncover the true cost of this smoke. We must figure out exactly what type of health impacts wildfire smoke is having, not just in California, but everywhere where this has impacted our communities throughout the Western United States.

So we are also going to need to develop better forecasts. This amendment would do that. And it directs the EPA to collect data and coordinate research on the impacts of acute air pollution exposure from wildfires. It is $100 million that I think is well spent.

An article published just a few days ago, September 19, in the Los Angeles Times, is titled, “How Bad Is All That Wildfire Smoke to Our Long-Term Health? ‘Frankly, We Don’t Really Know.’” We don’t really know, and that is why we need this research, this funding.

A good friend of mine from Stanford University, my alma mater, an economist named Marshall Burke, has done extensive work on the impact of climate change and the cost of inaction. He has estimated that between 1,000 and 3,000 excess deaths—think of that number, 1,000 and 3,000 excess deaths—will be caused by the smoke from these wildfires. Five to seven extra visits to the emergency room in California will be caused by these wildfires.

And we know from other research at Harvard University and elsewhere that short-term changes in particulate matter of 2.5, and other criteria air pollutants, dramatically increase mortality.

It is very clear: Wildfire smoke is a dominant source of air pollution in the United States in some years. Health costs associated with wildfire exposure are greater than what we thought, previously.

The more we learn about this, the more we recognize just what a significant toll this is taking on our health, on our ability to deal with the economic impacts of this. And we have seen, in California, some of the studies on things like preterm birth, this has had an impact even on preterm birth.

And, of course, as is so often the case when we talk about environmental issues, environmental justice is key here. We know that the poor and communities of color have been impacted most by this as well.

In my district, we have got the University of California at San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and I am very proud of all of the work they are doing.

One of the researchers there recently made the link between air pollution and increased risk of COVID-19 and, specifically, the severity of symptoms that one would get if they were to have COVID-19 and if they were to be impacted by wildfire smoke. It could exacerbate the degree to which COVID-19 causes more serious conditions.

As that researcher said: “I really hope I am wrong, but what we may expect to see in the next few weeks is an increase in the fatality rate from COVID-19.”

And I know that wildfire smoke is here. This is not theoretical. Often times, when we talk about climate change, we think of something in the future; we think of something theoretical.

One of the things that I so appreciate about this legislation, and specifically about this amendment and the series of amendments from Mr. SCHRAMER and my friends from California—Josh HARDER, Ami BERA, Mike THOMPSON, and Jimmy PANETTA—is that all of these amendments are things that impact us in the here and now.

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One of the things that I so appreciate about this legislation, and specifically about this amendment and the series of amendments from Mr. SCHRAMER and my friends from California—Josh HARDER, Ami BERA, Mike THOMPSON, and Jimmy PANETTA—is that all of these amendments are things that impact us in the here and now.

Wildfire smoke is not some far-off, theoretical thing that may or may not
happen in the future. We know that it is happening, and happening right now.

So, as I mentioned, in addition to our amendment, which establishes a program to improve wildfire smoke emissions modeling and to develop smoke forecast models and directs EPA to collect data and coordinate research on the impacts of acute air pollution exposure from wildfires, Mr. SCHRADER of Oregon has an amendment that would establish the home wildfire risk reduction rebate program to provide rebates to homeowners to defray the cost of retrofitting an existing home to be wildfire resistant.

Of course, we are thinking of all of our friends throughout the Pacific Northwest. We have family in Oregon and Washington that have been so dramatically impacted by all of this.

As I mentioned, my friends JOSH HARDER, AMI BERA, and MIKE THOMPSON, all fantastic Representatives from northern California—and they have really been at the forefront of the issues throughout California—have offered amendments that, among other things, create a geospatial map that depicts wildfire risk around utilities to allow for better planning, for grid hardening, vegetation management, emergency access points, and more.

Their amendments also establish an electricity reliability standard regarding extreme weather events and direct the Department of Energy to help States and local utilities on ways to improve the resiliency of their electrical grids. It is so important that we study wildfires and we understand the impact on our electricity grid.

My friend Representative PANETTA offers several amendments, including one that expands weatherization assistance for low-income families and enhancement in innovation to cover the home wildfire risk reduction rebate program to provide rebates to homeowners to defray the cost of retrofitting an existing home to be wildfire resistant.

So our amendment and the other amendments that I discussed will go a long way, and I hope we can achieve bipartisan consensus in this, and in the months and years ahead to actually tackle these problems as they face California wildfires.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my friend from California’s comments, especially about the smoke and how his state folks all across the West, and especially in the Pacific Northwest. I am a native Oregonian and, tragically, we have been choking on smoke for a very long time, for decades and decades, as these forest fires have burned unnaturally because fuel concentrations are unnatural.

You know, we did a great job as Americans with Smokey the Bear and putting out fires. For 100 years we have fought fire. The problem is that in the last 50 years there have been court decisions, lots of litigation, lawsuits to stop active forest management. We lost tens of thousands of jobs that used to take place in our rural forested communities of people that would go out and tend to our forests. When they would harvest, they would replant. If there was a fire, they were on the scene to help put it out. All that went away through litigation and lawsuits.

In the early 2000s, I worked with then-President Bush to pass the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, to allow us to get in, at least in the wildland-urban interface, and thin out these unnatural stands, get them back in balance with nature. The Forest Service tells us today 63 million acres of our nation’s people’s forests, are at high risk of fire. It is out of balance. We have 7 million of those acres in my home State of Oregon. 7 million acres. We treat more than 2,000 housing units deeply, mostly, of these were mobile homes, mobile home parks, and low-income housing. The poorest of the poor got hit the hardest.

This was not forest fire. This was between a freeway and a highway, and it just took off. It was dry, because you know, in the West we dry out in the summer, unlike back here where they get rain with a thunderstorm. But this wasn’t even lightning, it was a grass and brush fire that got away with an unusually strong wind, and it just became a blowtorch, and most likely was started by arson.

Meanwhile, in the canyons off the great Cascade Mountains, fire started up there, we don’t know how and, in some cases, again, this high wind may have triggered it with power lines or something like that. People lost their homes, habitat destroyed, communities that had been there forever, wiped out, lives lost.

So, indeed, we have this situation where with drought and fire, disease, bug infestation, and a neglected forest, conditions are ripe for destruction. They are ripe for fires like this. But if you care about—and I think we all do—about the planet and about the climate and about reducing emissions, then it is a failure of this Congress, under Democrat rule, to not move forward with the legislation our colleagues, a Yale forestry graduate, BRUCE WESTERMAN, has put forward, to move more actively treat these forests to get them back in balance with nature.

And, more importantly, when 70 percent of the carbon emissions from a fire occur afterwards from the dead and down material behind, we should be going in like Tribal governments do, county and State governments do, they go in and manage their forests by removing the burned, dead debris, where it makes sense, and while it still has value, and they replant a new, healthy forest. I think we can all agree, new green trees sequester carbon better than dead, dying ones.
Science is on our side in this matter, but the politics have not been on our side in the West. So we have not been able to make progress on changing Federal law that would actually make our forests and forest communities healthier and safer, more economically dynamic, and reduce emissions and fire and smoke.

I have choked on that smoke the last 10 days, as have my constituents and, sadly, we sent that smoke all the way to Europe and around the globe, and none of us can repeat that. So, hopefully, we can put old battles behind us. We can do something to treat America’s great forests and get them back in balance. We can go in and remove burned debris while it has value, creating jobs in our most impoverished counties, and plant new, green, healthy forests for the next generation. Indeed, that is our obligation and our duty, and we should do more.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this important issue. He has brought his experience in the private sector, and the nonprofit sector to Congress to address the climate crisis that we are facing.

Madam Speaker, I join the distinguished ranking member of the committee in supporting this en bloc, and remind him that in 2018 we did have the fire budget act that readjusted—enabling us to spend money for fire prevention, and that was bipartisan.

I welcome your support for the en bloc and work to address this. The description that you make of the fire impacts of communities is a very serious one. We see it in California, but we have seen it a few years ago and before. Unless you have seen it, you cannot really realize how devastating it is. It just obliterates the area.

And then the smoke from those fires, as we say, the smoke from those fires is not stronger than the love that we have for each other to come back from all of this. But this legislation and these amendments will be helpful, and I thank the gentleman for his strong leadership on this.

The threat of wildfires in our communities and the ability to create clean energy jobs and innovation is an opportunity that we have here today. Across the country, extreme weather and climate events are being unleashed on our communities leaving tragedy and devastation in their wake. From wildfires in the West—which the distinguished ranking member referenced and that we have experienced—that are described as apocalyptic, which have killed at least 35 people, blanketed the entire country in haze, and burned an historic 3.7 million acres, more than 20 times the amount last year.

Horrific hurricanes in the Gulf Coast, some of the most severe to hit the southern states. I spoke to the Governor of Louisiana, he told me that the hurricane that hit Louisiana, the most severe in the history of Louisiana. I said, Even more so than Katrina? He said, Yes, Katrina’s damage sprang from the hurricane, but also the levees collapsing. This is about the severity of the hurricane. And then frequently including these fire disasters since then. They are running out of names to label them. They said they may have to go to the Greek alphabet.

Madam Speaker, Mother Nature is sending us a message, a clear sign that the climate crisis is real, it is deadly, and it is accelerating.

The American people elected a Democratic House majority that would honor the science, honor our obligation to build a more resilient, green, and sustainable economy, not only for future generations tomorrow, but for our children today.

I am proud of the work that Democrats have taken since day one to combat the climate crisis in a way that creates jobs and advances environmental justice. This has been an all-caucus effort reflecting the energy of our freshmen, the expertise of our chairs, and the will of the American people, including: The Climate Action Now Act, keeping us in the Paris accords; the Moving Forward Act, making a strong downpayment in a clean energy future; the Great American Outdoors Act; the most significant conservation bill in a generation, strongly bipartisan; Solving the Climate Crisis, our congressional action plan led by Chairwoman KATHY CASTOR, the most detailed, sweeping climate plan in American history, which endorses a national goal with net-zero pollution as soon as possible, 2050 at the latest. This plan protects American workers, safeguards vulnerable communities, grows the economy, and advances our preeminence in green technologies.

Now, today we ring the bell, or the next step with the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act. And, Madam Speaker, I say the next step. This is not exhaustive of our solutions, and we have a lot of ideas in our caucus to debate and to prioritize, but this is an important next step.

I salute all the committees of jurisdiction and chairs for their strategic, science-based leadership on the bills in this package, Energy and Commerce Chairwoman PALLOGE; Science, Space, and Technology Chairwoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON; Natural Resources Chairmen RAUL GRIJALVA, along with Congressmen MCEACHIN and RUIZ, for their collaborative efforts to include a transformative environmental justice title; Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, KATHY CASTOR; Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health in Energy and Commerce, leading the legislation to study the direct connection of wildfire smoke on public health, as you suggested. And also, Members from the West for offering amendments, including that consideration now, to improve wildfire research, resilience, and protect homes, communities, and public health.

Again, I salute Congressman MIKE LEVIN for his leadership in this very important area. His election to Congress took us way down the path in this fight to preserve the planet. Thank you, Mr. LEVIN.

The legislation advances public health, financial, and national security, and environmental justice. It takes actions that scientists, researchers, and experts tell us is needed:

By launching the research and development needed to unleash a clean energy revolution and put on in our communities; making a bold downpayment for future climate action by modernizing America’s energy innovation infrastructure; phasing down dangerous HFCs, known as super pollutants, which many experts believe is the single biggest action that the world can take to reduce global warming; putting our country on the path to net-zero pollution no later than 2050; and, critically protecting local communities by requiring Federal agencies to better understand the impact of new projects on public health and the environment, and to provide meaningful participation for indigenous and environmental communities. This is so absolutely important to our great Nation involved in these decisions.

□ 1300

As the League of Conservation Voters wrote today: “This bill includes many great provisions to develop and deploy renewable and distributed energy resources; improve the efficiency of our homes, schools, and businesses; electrify our transportation sector; modernize the grid and enhance its resilience; prioritize the needs of environmental justice in communities; reduce climate pollution from industrial and traditional sources, and from ambivalent sources.”

Then they go on to say: “Though we do not support increased funding for projects that could extend the life of fossil fuel-burning power plants or aging nuclear power infrastructure or risky under demonstrated nuclear projects, many of the amendments would improve those areas and build upon the significant positive environmental aspects of the bill.” This is very important, “build upon the significant positive environmental aspects of the bill.”

“We urge support for the amendments... that will make the bill even...
stronger by protecting our communities and environment while investing in clean energy research, development, and deployment.’’

This important legislation is an important step—I keep saying it is not every day that it is a step—to address climate action. But much more is needed.

Unfortunately, many in our government continue to deny the science and refuse to act. As seen earlier this month in the G7 Summit’s Meeting on “Addressing the Climate Crisis With Economic and Environmental Justice for All,” no other country in that mix of the G7 and the President of the European Union, who was also participating, no other country is in denial about the climate crisis and the impact that human activity has on it.

Sadly, only in America is there contempt for science, public health, and the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, when I first became Speaker in 2007, the first bill we put on the floor was to establish a Select Committee on Climate and Energy. We passed that bill working with President Bush. It was the biggest energy bill in the history of our country. It was the equivalent of taking millions of cars off the road. We came to terms with an agreement, and he was delighted to have a bipartisan agreement for this bill.

Since then, there has been denial about the climate crisis. After becoming Speaker again in this Congress, I established a Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, which KATHY CASTOR chairs.

So this has been a very high priority. It is a high priority for public health, clean air, clean water, ending the pollutants, diminishing the pollutants.

Secondly, it is a jobs issue. Jobs, clean energy jobs making us preeminent in the world.

It is a national security issue. Our security experts tell us that drought and famine, so much is caused by the climate crisis, could cause shortages for our habitat, resources, and the rest cause mass migrations. It is a national security issue.

It is a moral issue. If you believe, as I do, that this planet is God’s creation, we have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of it. This is believed by many in the evangelical community. But even if you don’t share this belief, this is believed by many in the evangelical community.

I urge Members, including the Republicans whose bills are included in this package, to listen to the public and pass this commonsense and science-based legislation and redouble our efforts to combat the climate crisis.

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Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my friend and colleague, a real leader on natural resources issues.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Oregon for yielding and for his leadership on this bill today. I appreciate the work in this current bloc on forestry as Oregon, and so much of the West is experiencing yet another year of such devastating fire.

I want to hear back to a previous bloc here while I have the opportunity. It has to do with the Klamath dam that are owned by PacifiCorp in northern California and Oregon.

Now, there is the need to continue those dam’s ability to operate. Unfortunately, my California colleague on the other side of the aisle is insisting on an amendment that would make it impossible to continue that operation even during a time of uncertainty as to the efficacy of dam removal or whatever the disposal of those will be. It is up in the air. The science is not clear.

The amendment that is being proposed might be the worst attempt at a veiled threat that I have seen in a long time on threatening a company in the operation of current dams. Rather than work with PacifiCorp, the hope seems to be that the House of Representatives can be used in this en bloc for a personal vendetta in defying the will of the people in the area.

The owner of these dams has signed on to both agreements that contain contemplated removal under the right conditions. Congress didn’t bring an agreement up for consideration. Local voters overwhelmingly rejected the dam removal. The corporation that my colleague is attempting to attack has been supportive for nearly 15 years.

Under the guise of what my colleague would call “more stringent reporting requirements,” this amendment would directly increase power costs on tens of thousands of customers across the West, requiring six new studies, reports, and disclosures every year at the cost of PacifiCorp. Complying with all of this will not be free. Regular families will see their power costs go up at a time when our power grid in California especially is in big trouble. This is wrong-headed.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to go back to the issue underlying this, which is wildfires and smoke. When I chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee, I held hearings each year, which have been continued under Chairman PALLONE, looking at the health impacts of wildfire smoke on our citizens in America as relates to the Clean Air Act.

I remember we had a gentleman from southern Oregon who had sent me a photo of his CPAP, his air-breathing filter, that had turned dark within a day or two. We had county commissioners tell me that when they opened their windows, the smoke alarm went off in their house. It was that bad.

We continue to have that, and it has been going on for a very long time. It is sad we had to get to this point for many to recognize who don’t have to live with that as we all have to.

There is so much more we can and should do, and I appreciate Speaker PELOSI’s comments about fixing the fire borrowing problem. We did that jointly and in a bipartisan, bicameral way. It was long overdue.

But I am just going to close by saying you still have 60, 70 million acres of lands out there that we have responsibility for. They are the public’s lands that are completely out of balance. Nature tells us that. Scientists reinforce that. And we need to do something about that.

Hopefully—I am leaving Congress at the end of this year—future Congresses will figure a way through this thicket because if we don’t act, you won’t have forests left, and a whole generation will never know what we have had the great joy to see, big healthy tree stands and habitat, freshwater and fish, and all of that that is the Northwest. It is going away in large measure every summer, and it will be a generation before you can drive over the Cascade Mountains on these routes and see what we got to see for our generation and what busts up and goes away.

We need to take out the burned, dead material while it has value. We need to plant green, new trees. We need to fully understand the impacts of smoke and then do everything in our power to minimize these fires and their devastating, tragic, and deadly effects.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of my amendment.

This amendment requires the establishment of a reliability standard, within the Federal Power Act, relating to extreme weather events. It directs the Department to create a program and publish a report, on ways to improve the resiliency of electrical grids.

Over the past year, my District and others across the State of California have experienced many of these power shutoffs due to extreme weather events—such as wildfires. These shutoffs hurt local businesses, leave thousands in the dark, and put the medically vulnerable at great risk.

The federal government must step up to ensure the U.S. electrical grid is more resilient. We must provide states and local utilities the
resources they need to reliably provide power to our communities. I urge an Aye vote on this amendment to help communities like mine and all the others affected by severe weather.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1129, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN). The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the SPEAKER pro tempore announced that the ayes appear to have it.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam 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 question are postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 57 will not be offered.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS OF MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendments en bloc No. 1, printed in part B of House Report 116–528, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER redesignates the amendments en bloc.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 172, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 202] YEA—235

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The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were yeas 273, not voting 23, as follows:

[Vote List]

Mrs. HARTZLER changed her vote from "yea" to "nay." So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**MINUTES RECORDED Pursuant to House Resolution 865, 116th Congress**

| Amendment No. 4, Offered by Mr. LEVIN of California |

**The SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendments in the bill during the debate on the motion to recommit. The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

**The Clerk redesignates the amendments en bloc.**
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question is on the order, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill, as amended.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there any objection to the motion to recommit?

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have an objection to the motion to recommit.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce—

Mr. Speaker, I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there any further debate on the motion to recommit?

The Clerk reads as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

Subtitle G—Prohibition on the Transfer of Intellectual Property

SEC. 12701. STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES PROHIBITION.

(a) INNOVATE IN AMERICA.—None of the funds authorized or made available by this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, may be used in awarding a grant, loan, or demonstration project to an entity that fails to certify that resulting intellectual property, technologies, and data, for the purpose authorized, will not be transferred to any other entity that—

(1) is determined to be of risk by the Secretary of Energy in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science; the Under Secretary for Energy; the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security; and the Department of Energy’s Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence;

(2) is identified as a nonmarket economy country (in accordance with section 771(18) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18)) as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(3) was identified by the United States Trade Representative in the most recent report submitted under section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242) as a priority foreign country under subsection (a)(2) of such section.

(b) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under international agreements.

Page 9 of the table of contents, after the table.

NOT VOTING—25

Abraham, Graves (GA) Rutherford
Bishop (NC) Holding Sensenbrenner
Burgess, Kennp (NC) Tiffany
Byrne, Marchant Waltz
Cheney, Mitchell Wilson (SC)
Crawford, Olson Wright
Dunn, Murphy (NC) Yoho
Ferguson, Riggleman
Gaetz, Rooney (FL)

Tlaib (Dingell)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (McGovern)
Wilson (FL) (Adams)

in taxpayer funds authorized in H.R. 4447 will be used to build up foreign countries’ intellectual property and technology at the expense of our own.

Specifically, in order to receive Federal grants, loans, or demonstration project awards, organizations must certify that the results of that funding, whether technology, intellectual property, or data, will not become the property of a foreign state-owned enterprise.

Part of the CCP strategy is acquiring U.S. technology and intellectual property, whether through investment, coercion or theft.

Let me repeat that: through investment, coercion, or, yes, even theft.

This isn’t a hypothetical situation.

Already, China has recruited U.S.-funded researchers for things like the Thousand Talents program.

This is much more than a single recruitment program or an exchange of knowledge.

Researchers joining the Thousand Talents program sign legally binding contracts that require them to transfer information and property to China.

We have seen a consistent pattern where China expresses interest in a specific technology and then the U.S. experiences intellectual property theft in that same technology.

The full scope of the CCP’s influence and presence in the U.S. is not entirely known to the public, but FBI Director Christopher Wray has said that the Bureau is opening a new China-related counterintelligence case about every 10 hours.

Simply put, we are spending the time, the money, and the effort to protect secrets to the core of U.S. science, but China is the one harvesting the crop.

We cannot afford to spend $135 billion in taxpayers’ funds on technologies that China will then steal and use to compete against us. We must protect our Nation’s research and intellectual property.

The Trump administration has taken good steps towards protecting American IP from Chinese aggression, but we must do more to work together to protect the sensitive technologies and research while maintaining the spirit of open science that has fueled, literally, generations of discoveries.

Mr. Speaker, this motion provides commonsense, practical protections for taxpayer-funded in-calculable innovations it creates.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion and ensure that we are not spending billions of dollars on research that China will then use to outcompete us.
The SPEAKER pro tempore, the gentlewoman from Colorado, introduced the bill for 5 minutes.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the motion to recommit, and I must say to the gentleman, I certainly feel the force of the views that the gentlewoman from Oklahoma says is in this motion to recommit, but, tragically, a reading of the motion shows that that is just not true.

The gentleman says that he is trying to get foreign powers from getting control over our intellectual property, but if you look at this amendment, it basically gives ultimate power to the administration to decide who is at risk and who shall not be or shall be allowed to be certified.

Section A(1) here says these technologies will not be transferred if it is determined to be at risk to the Secretary of Energy in consultation with others.

At risk for what? At risk to whom? We simply don't know by reading this. And what it could do is it could exempt entities that, for example, have investments by U.S. Government officials or relatives of U.S. Government officials. We just don't know. And what it is just a power grab by the administration.

We agree with the concept. We shouldn't be allowing intellectual property to be transferred to foreign government, but that is not what this motion to recommit does. That is why we should all oppose the motion to recommit, and we should, of course, all vote "yes" on the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act.

What this bill does is it makes long-overdue reforms to U.S. energy policy, and it authorizes major investments in overdue reforms to U.S. energy policy, and it authorizes major investments in our economy. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our Members to take a close look at this motion to recommit and see what the real damages could do will be.

Vote "no" on the motion to recommit, and vote "yes" for clean energy jobs and innovation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit. There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question now from the motion to recommit. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the nays appeared to have it.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE), on the question, announced that the ayes had 220, the nays 185, and there were—yeas 220, nays 185, not voting 25, as follows:

(ROLL NO. 206)

YEAS—220

Yeas: [List of Members]

NAYS—185

Nays: [List of Members]

Not Voting: [List of Members]
late honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 45

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Architect of the Capitol is authorized and directed to transfer to the custody of the Supreme Court of the United States the catafalque which is situated in the crypt beneath the Rotunda of the Capitol so that such catafalque may be used in the Supreme Court Building in connection with services to be conducted there for the late honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The custody of the catafalque shall then be returned to the Architect of the Capitol to be used in connection with such services to be conducted in National Statuary Hall.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HELPING AMERICA’S SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, normally, we would do the colloquy with the majority leader. He and I will not be doing that this week, but I know we do still have real concerns about those families and businesses that are struggling today through these difficult times. Many of those businesses were able to get relief through the Paycheck Protection Program, a program that we all came together to get agreement on, to help millions of small businesses. Over 50 million jobs were saved by that program.

We also know there is about $138 billion still remaining in that fund, but the fund has expired. So I want to bring attention to things we can do together to alleviate that, to help those small businesses with that remaining money, and to talk about that more.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER).

REQUEST TO DISCHARGE COMMITTEE FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8265

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8265) to extend the Paycheck Protection Program access for small businesses, to extend the life-line that southwest Washington businesses—over 9,500 have taken advantage of, and 199 have now applied for in southwest Washington and across this country, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and the Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, we will still push the majority to put that bill on the suspension calendar. We have no doubt it would pass overwhelmingly. We will continue to fight for those small businesses.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE SURFACE NAVY

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, commissioned in 1943, the USS Iowa was the most powerful American warship of her time. The ship saw action in World War II, and even transported President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Since 2012, the battleship has been berthed in my district in San Pedro, California. Today, Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced a resolution to formally name the Battleship USS Iowa Museum the “National Museum of the Surface Navy.” This resolution honors the men and women who have served and continue to serve the freedom of our Nation by designating this museum as a monument to their sacrifice.

In decades past, the USS Iowa defended our Nation. Today, it educates and promotes the causes of veterans.

Given the challenges of operating the museum in the COVID-19 era, I say thank you to the dedicated people who have kept this museum afloat—literally.

NATIONAL NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my neighbors in Alabama and Florida who bore the brunt of destruction from Hurricane Sally when it made landfall on September 16. We keep all those who were affected in our prayers as they rebuild.

Mississippi was lucky to be spared this time, but tragedy comes with an important lesson. We must be prepared. I will be the first to say that even I could have been better prepared for this storm after seeing the devastation throughout lower Alabama and the panhandle.

September is National Natural Disaster Preparedness Month, and hurricanes are still on the horizon. I encourage everyone who calls the Gulf and Atlantic Coast home to review the FEMA hurricane guidelines. From knowing your evacuation route to having all the essentials to leave, if necessary, when a storm is headed our way, we will be better prepared to weather it together.

Natural disasters are inevitable, and it is our responsibility as elected officials and as individuals, to prepare for them and recover responsibly. For those impacted by Hurricane Sally, I wish you a swift recovery.

Don’t just build back, build forward.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOE CASTRO—FRESNO STATE UNIVERSITY

(Ms. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I recognize a Latino leader who has been an inspiration and a role model to thousands of students in my home of Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley, and that is Dr. Joe Castro, president of Fresno State University, home of the Bulldogs.

Yesterday, Dr. Castro was named the newest chancellor of California State University system after spending 8 years at my alma mater at Fresno State with great success. He is the first native of California and the first person of color to head the California University system, the largest in the entire Nation.

Raised in an immigrant household in Hanford, California, he is the first in his family, like so many, to graduate from college. His story is the story of the American immigrant.

He serves as a mentor and an inspiration to thousands of first-generation college students who have followed in his footsteps, folks like members of my family. His leadership led to many accolades for Fresno State in recent years as the university continues to be one of the best colleges in the country. A passionate and fierce advocate for students, his selection to lead the largest public university system in the country is a testament to his leadership and the respect he has throughout the Nation as one of the leaders in higher education. He will leave behind a legacy that was best expressed when he first came to Fresno State and he told the student body: “Be bold.” “Be bold.”

Congratulations, Joe and Mary, a real team, a Bulldog team, and always Bulldog proud.

STAND UP FOR AMERICA’S SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to stand up for small businesses and workers across the country who are struggling right now.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. sharp, I will be filing a discharge
petition in the House to temporarily seize control from the House Democratic leadership and revive the vital job-saving Paycheck Protection Program.

Every one of us has heard from restaurants and stores on the brink of closure. They are not crying wolf. Many will not make it through October without more PPP funds.

I know the majority leadership is feeling tremendous pressure. How? Because they canceled votes tomorrow morning. I guess allowing my more-seasoned Democratic colleagues to be on the floor while we file this petition jeopardizes leadership’s political posture.

Well, enough posturing, and enough treating the fate of small business like a chess game.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to sign my discharge petition in the morning and rescue small businesses. Be brave. Now is the time to act.

☐ 1745

JUSTICE FOR BREONNA TAYLOR

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a Kentucky grand jury indicted one—just one—of the three officers involved in the tragic shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Rather than being held accountable for this murder of an unarmed young Black woman, the indicted officer, instead, received a slap on the fist while the others responsible remain free.

Mr. Speaker, this shows, again, how our broken, racist criminal justice system cares more about damaged property than Black lives. If this court were concerned about endangering others, how can they ignore the life that was taken in plain sight?

401 years of white supremacy and oppression have rotted our criminal justice system. If there is any doubt that systemic racism exists, look to this decision.

The Senate must take up the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would finally put an end to no-knock warrants.

Breonna Taylor deserves better than this. Her family deserves better than this. We cannot give up until there is true justice. We deserve a justice system that recognizes that Black lives matter.

Say her name.

HONORING SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sweet Briar College for being named one of the most innovative schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report. This is the second time in 3 years that Sweet Briar has earned this distinction in recognition of its academic and institutional innovations.

Located in Amherst County, Virginia, the college is committed to instilling in its students the knowledge and skills necessary to address the challenges facing our communities.

Sweet Briar utilizes its sprawling 2,800-acre campus, including its lakes, vineyards, apiary, and 26,000-square-foot greenhouse, as a natural canvas and laboratory to offer students an experience unlike any other in the country.

Further, not only is Sweet Briar home to one of our country’s oldest award-winning riding programs, but it is also one of two women’s colleges in the United States with an ABET-accredited engineering program. Thus, it came as no surprise to hear that they were once again honored for their innovation.

President Meredith Woo and the school faculty have created a truly shining example of the incredible academic opportunities the Sixth District offers students from across the Nation.

REMEMBERING ROBERTO CLEMENTE

(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, I would like to recognize the outstanding career, life, and accomplishments of Roberto Clemente.

Born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Roberto was a talented athlete from a young age and an Olympic hopeful in his way into the Hall of Fame. He had a wonderful professional career, including 12 Gold Glove Awards, among his many other achievements.

His off-the-field accomplishments were also something to be in awe of, spending much of his free time on charity work or serving with the United States Marine Corps.

His number, 21, was retired by the Pittsburgh Pirates after his untimely death. His accomplishments on the field and off the field deserve to have his number retired by Major League Baseball.

Rest in peace, Mr. Clemente. May God bless you, and we all consider you our hero.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

(Mr. GOHMERT. H. Res. 1148, raising a question of the privileges of the House.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I seek to provide this privileged resolution here in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will give notice of his resolution.

Mr. GOHMERT. H. Res. 1148, raising a question of the privileges of the House.

Whereas, on July 22, 2020, H.R. 7573 was brought to the House floor for a vote, with the purpose of eliminating specific statues of the Confederate States of America in the United States Capitol along with all others that include individuals who “served as an officer or voluntarily with the Confederate States of America or of the military forces or government of the Southern States while the State was in rebellion against the United States” yet failed to address the most ever-present historical stigma in the United States Capitol; that is the source that so fervently supported, condoned and fought for slavery was left untouched, without whom, the evil of slavery could never have continued as it did, to such extreme that it is necessary to address here in order for the U.S. House of Representatives to avoid derogation of historical fact and blatant hypocrisy of venerating future idolaters to come.

Whereas, The Democratic Party Platform of 1840, 1844, 1848, 1852, and 1856 states “That Congress has no power under the Constitution, to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the abolitionists, or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of slavery . . . are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend our political institutions.”

Whereas, The Democratic Party Platform of 1856 further declares that “new states to the Union should be admitted “with or without domestic slavery, as [the state] may elect.”

Whereas, The Democratic Party Platform of 1856 also resolves that “we recognize the right of the people of all of the Territories . . . to form a Constitution, with or without domestic slavery.”

Whereas, The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 penalized officials who did not arrest an alleged runaway slave and fined them liable to a fine of $1,000 (about $28,000 in present-day value); Law-enforcement officials everywhere were required to arrest people suspected of being a runaway slave on as little as a claimant’s sworn testimony of ownership; the Democratic Party Platform of 1860 directly, in seeking to uphold the Fugitive Slave Act, states that, “the enactments of the State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Law are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.”

Whereas, The 14th Amendment, giving full citizenship to freed slaves,
passed in 1868 with 94 percent Republican support, 0 percent Democrat support in Congress; the 15th Amendment, giving freed slaves the right to vote, passed in 1870 with 100 percent Republican support and 0 percent Democrat support in Congress.

Whereas Democrats systematically suppressed African-Americans' rights to vote, and by specific example in the 1902 Constitution of the State of Virginia, actually disenfranchised about 90 percent of the black men who still voted at the time; starting in the second quarter of the twentieth century and nearly half of the white men, thereby suppressing Republican voters; the number of eligible African-American voters were thereby forcibly reduced from about 147,000 in 1901 to about 10,000 by 1905; that measure was supported almost exclusively by Virginia Democrats.

Whereas, Virginia's 1902 Constitution was engineered by Carter Glass, future Democratic Party U.S. Representative, Senator, Secretary of the Treasury under Democrat President Woodrow Wilson, who proclaimed the goal of the constitutional convention as follows: This Democrat exclaimed, "Discrimination! Why, that is precisely what we want, exactly what this Convention was elected for—to discriminate to the very extremity of permissible action under the limits of the federal Constitution, with a view to elimination of every Negro voter who can be gotten rid of legally.''

Whereas in 1912, Democratic President Woodrow Wilson's administration began a racial segregation policy for U.S. government employees and, by 1914, the Wilson administration's Civil Service instituted the requirement that a photograph be submitted with each employment application.

Whereas, The 1924 Democratic National Convention convened in New York City at Madison Square Garden; the convention was commonly known as the "Klan-Bake" due to the overwhelming influence of the Ku Klux Klan in the Democratic Party.

Whereas, Democrat President Franklin Delano Roosevelt continued Woodrow Wilson's policy of segregating White House staff and maintained separate dining rooms for white and black staffs. He also continued the White House Correspondents Association's ban on credentialing black journalists for White House duties until outside press and black publicists finally forced a change in policy in 1944, the last year of his presidency.

According to the American Journal of Public Health, prior to his presidency, Roosevelt not only banned blacks from receiving treatment at his polio facility in Warm Springs, Georgia, but black staff were forced to live in the basement of the facility or in a segregated dormitory while white staff lived in the hotel or in surrounding cottages.

Whereas, Democrat Congressman Howard Smith, former chairman of the House Rules Committee introduced the "Declaration of Constitutional Principles" in a speech on the House floor where he attacked the Supreme Court's 1954 decision on Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (KS) which determined that segregated schools were unconstitutional. Smith's declaration urged supporters to "all lawful means" to avoid the "chaos and confusion" which would occur if they desegregated schools. History.Gov states that, "Under Smith, the Rules Committee became a graveyard for numerous civil rights initiatives in the 1950s."

Whereas, In 1964 the Democratic Party led a 75-calendaryear filibuster against the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Whereas, Leading the Democrats in their opposition to civil rights for African-Americans was a fellow member of the Democratic Party, Senator Robert Byrd from West Virginia—a known recruiter for the Ku Klux Klan.

Whereas, Democrats enacted and enforced Jim Crow laws and civil codes that forced segregation and restricted freedoms of black Americans in the United States.

Whereas, On June 18, 2020, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ordered the removal from the Capitol portraits of four previous Speakers of the House who served in the Confederacy saying that the portraits, "set back our nation's work to confront and combat bigotry:" the men depicted in the portraits were Democrat Robert M.T. Hunter; Democrat Howell Cobb; Democrat James L. Orr and Democrat Charles F. Crisp.

Resolved,

(1) That the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall remove any item that names, symbolizes or mentions any political organization or party that has ever held a public position that supported slavery or the Confederacy, from any area within the House wing of the Capitol or any House office building, and shall donate such item or symbol to the Library of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of privilege of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Texas will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

1800

COLOR OF CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And still I rise in the name of liberty and justice for all. And still I rise in the name of justice for Breonna Taylor.

Mr. Speaker, there are many questions to be answered, critical questions to be answered. In this case there has been no indictment, nor arrest. There are unanswerable questions. Who killed Breonna Taylor? Was the warrant properly executed? But there are some more questions that are quite critical.

"Is the system of justice in this Nation broken, or is it doing what it was designed to do? Was Breonna Taylor's death a tragedy, as has been announced and published far and wide? Or was her death a tragedy that was, in fact, a crime?"

And still I rise to address the issues associated with Breonna Taylor's death.

So I rise today because Breonna Taylor was a 26-year-old African-American woman. Breonna Taylor was an innocent person in her home at the midnight hour. She was unarmed. She committed no crime. Breonna Taylor was doing what most people in this country do at the midnight hour. Yet, Breonna Taylor is no longer with us.

And the question that I posed earlier and I pose now is this, Breonna Taylor was a Black woman, but the question is, was Breonna Taylor a fellow member of the American Party? Was she an innocent, unarmed White woman who was killed in the middle of the night when Black police officers intruded into her home, would her death be a simple tragedy or would it be a crime to be prosecuted?

To answer this question, I think we have to examine the color of crime.

The color of crime dates back to the arrival of Africans in the Americas. At one time when Africans first brought to this country, they were slaves, and as slaves the White masters had the right to hold them in bondage. But the slave committed a crime if the slave sought freedom. To seek freedom, to seek the liberty and the justice that we hold so near and dear, was a crime for the slave. The slave was Black. That crime was relegated to the Black slaves. Slavery was a crime that had color associated with it.

Let us move forward. After slavery was abolished with the 13th Amendment—the Emancipation Proclamation.
was a great document, but it was the 13th Amendment that freed the slaves. And after the 13th Amendment was passed, the slaves were left to privation. They were left without the necessities of life. They were dependent on the very people that enslaved them. And as a result of that, the very people that enslaved them, they had few choices when it came to employment.

But employing them was not enough for the slave masters, they used the color of one’s skin as a bond. And in that bond, they employed the use of Black codes. They made it a crime to be a vagrant. To have no job was a crime. The people who enslaved them were the people who denied them jobs, and the people who inculturated, passed laws, that made it possible for them to be arrested for not having a job.

This was a Black code. The color of crime was Black. The Black codes also saw something else come into being, something that has had some dealings with as of late. Convict leasing. A person who was caught and accused of a minor crime, they had something called Pig Laws. Steal a pig, some minor crime, they would be punished and punished until they were required to be leased to another person. Just another form of bondage. Just another form of slavery.

In Houston, we had 95 such persons found near a school in Sugar Land, Texas, in 1930, 1931, and 1932. They were persons who were slaves by another name. They were leased. There was a color associated with crime.

And we move forward, if we may, to today. We find that we have this question before us. If Breonna Taylor were a White woman, would she be alive today, or would the persons who perpetrated this crime against her be punished? Would they have to be held accountable?

And I ask you, if, in your mind you say, yes, then you understand now some of what the color of crime is all about, because we are looking at two people, same facts, one with a darker hue than the other. And as a result, there are a good many people, and I am among them, who believe that her color of skin, her color of skin, contributed to do with her demise and the lack of accountability.

Her color was something that does not receive the same level of respect that persons of a lighter hue receive. She had no gun. She didn’t fire on the officers. She was in her home. Yet, the officers fired and the bullets hit her multiple times.

In this society, the lack of the same respect for people of color as is given people who are of a lighter hue is evident. It is evident in the financial services industry. It is evident in banking. Persons who are of African ancestry, who are more qualified than persons who are what we refer to as White in this country, of European ancestry, they can apply for loans. Black people, more qualified, will get less in a loan, or have a higher interest rate. It has been documented.

And as a result of this, there is a color associated with lending in this country. And this color allows people to steal the future of Black people. Their futures are dependent upon what we call bootstraps. Bootstraps are loans. People buy homes with loans. People go into businesses with loans. Black people are being denied loans to a greater extent than some White people who are less qualified for the loans that they eventually get. So the color of crime is in the financial services industry.

But the color of crime is also in policing. Not all police officers are bad. I absolutely deplore what happened to the police officers in Kentucky recently who were shot. The people who committed these crimes, if there were multiple people involved, they should be arrested, they should be prosecuted. And there is a good likelihood that they will be arrested and prosecuted. And there is a good likelihood that their arrest will take place rather quickly, and they will be treated with due liberate speed. There is a good likelihood that if you hurt a police officer, you are going to receive swift justice.

But in policing, the color of one’s skin has consistently demonstrated that they would be treated with behavior that emanates from some police officers, not all. But because some do it, and not all are involved in this, we cannot allow ourselves to say that all police officers are bad. I don’t agree with this.

But I also think that we cannot be put in a position such that we can’t talk about the police officers who are bad, because somehow people will conclude you are talking about those who are bad, and you are not going to talk about the officers who do dastardly deeds under the color of the law. And these officers understand, many of them that do these things, without having been told in the academy, without having to discuss it among themselves, they understand that Black people in this society do not get the same level of respect as White people.

And as a result of not getting the same level of respect, as a result of not having the same techniques accused people who hurt Black people as those who would hurt a White person, it is understood within the psyche that White officers, Black officers, regard less of their color, they can do things to Black people and escape the level of punishment that they would get if they performed these same insidious acts on White people.

If officers were properly punished, George Floyd would still be alive. If officers were properly punished, I believe that Breonna Taylor would be alive. And if, by chance, she had lost her life, as she has, if they were properly punished, there would be something more to be accounted in this case other than a simple indication that it was a tragedy.

It was a tragedy because she was Black. It was a tragedy because she was born of a different hue, a darker hue. If she had been born a White woman in this society, the rules would be different. Not the rules that had been codified, but the rules that have been insculpted into the psyche, into the minds of people who happen to wear a badge and carry a gun.

Let’s just talk about whether the system is broken or whether it is functioning as created. The system employs the grand jury. It is said that the prosecutor can indict a ham sandwich. But what is not said is this: That same prosecutor can exonerate a ham sandwich.

The prosecutor can present a case without any defense lawyer being present, present a case and decide which witnesses will be called, generally speaking. In so doing, the prosecutor frames the case, and the prosecutor leads the grand jury.

When the prosecutor wants an indictment and believes that an indictment should be had, an indictment is generally had in the case. The prosecutor has the ability to lead a grand jury.

This system, while it has great benefits, also has its flaws because the prosecutors will tell you what happens within the grand jury room cannot be discussed. You can’t talk about it. It is secreted. That is a means by which the truth doesn’t always get out.

So, the prosecutor can use the grand jury as a means of allowing a guilty person to go free by contending that the grand jury decided that the person should not be indicted. It is the prosecutor who can indict the ham sandwich, and it is the prosecutor who can exonerate the ham sandwich.

I believe that we have a challenge in this country, the challenge is probably one of our time for these seminal moments in time. The challenge has to do with whether we are going to do something about this color of crime and this systemic racism that exists.

Are we going to simply talk about it and decry it when each case arises, sile the case, and then move on to the next? Or are we going to commit ourselves to eliminating invidious discrimination in all of its forms as it relates to racism, as it relates to anti-Semitism, as it relates to Islamophobia, as it relates to xenophobia and Islamophobia, as it relates to transphobia, all the invidious phobias? Are we going to commit ourselves?

The way to commit ourselves, to have the public know we are committed, and to move us forward so that the color of one’s skin will not determine your worth when it comes to the behavior of some people in this society as they interact with you, if we are going to do that, then we have to have a reconciliation.

We have not reconciled in this country. We have not reconciled. We have
not settled the differences that were created as a result of people being held in human bondage. We haven’t reconciled. We haven’t made it such that those persons who were enslaved can now have equal opportunities within this country.

Equal opportunity is something I strive for, but it doesn’t exist for people of color. It doesn’t exist for some other people as well, not just people of color.

One of the things that we learned at my committee was that LGBTQ persons, if they go in for a loan, they, too, are discriminated against. Two gay people, a man who is married to another man, they are discriminated against.

Discrimination of this type has to be eliminated. The way to commit ourselves to the elimination of all forms of invidious discrimination is with a department, a department of reconciliation, a department with a secretary of reconciliation who reports directly to the President of the United States of America. We can do this. The question is, do we have the will to do it, a department of reconciliation with a budget, a budget that will allow persons to become a part of this department as under secretaries?

This department can take up the issue of reparations. This department can take up the issue of a truth commission, as to gather all the necessary truths and facts about what has happened to African Americans in the United States of America. We need a department of reconciliation.

This challenge is something that is applicable to you, regardless of your party. It doesn’t matter whether you are a Democrat or a Republican. What matters is, will we move forward with a department of reconciliation?

It doesn’t matter which President we are talking about or which candidate we are talking about. Every candidate ought to be held responsible for answering the question: Will you agree to a department of reconciliation?

Every candidate, it doesn’t matter whether you are liberal or conservative, the question is: Will you agree to a department of reconciliation?

I say to you, the candidate who says this is going to find that there are many people who are going to have favor with this candidate and that the candidate will benefit greatly in November.

But there must be reconciliation, and the best way is through a department of reconciliation.

Now, to the family of Ms. Taylor. I have never met you, but I assure you that I will not let her death go unnoticed. This House of Representatives is going to have it called to their attention on multiple occasions. We cannot tolerate this kind of behavior. If we tolerate it, we perpetuate it.

I plan to go to Kentucky. I want to see what happened in this place where she resided. I want to see the facility. This is important. We cannot allow her name to be a momentary announcement and then go on to the next thing that causes a good deal of shame. We can’t do it.

To these officers who were shot and their families I want to say that, yes, I stand against people who shoot police officers simply because of who they are, who commit crimes against police officers. Innocent peace officers, police officers, deserve the same level of respect that other citizens who are innocent deserve.

Officers ought not be assaulted simply because they are members of a police force. I absolutely oppose it, and I absolutely support peaceful protest, not these protesters who believe that they have to destroy things. I believe you can be disruptive without being destructive.

Peaceful protest is about being disruptive, yes. Sometimes, people go to jail. Dr. King went to jail for peaceful protest. I was there for peaceful protest. I have been to jail many times for peaceful protest, being disruptive without being destructive.

I want the families of the officers to know that I stand with you. I want you to know that I want justice for those who have hurt these officers. Officers, I want you to know this, as well. My uncle was a deputy sheriff. I understand a lot about law enforcement. I was a judge of a justice court. I am a lawyer. So, I appreciate law enforcement.

What I don’t appreciate is what happened to Breonna Taylor. I don’t appreciate a system that allows a prosecutor to lay the blame for lack of justice at the feet, at the hands, of a grand jury. The grand jury system has to be reevaluated. This notion that it is secret and that we will never know what happened before the grand jury—there are ways to find out. I am sure. In fact, now that there are, but in most cases, you can’t or you don’t.

The system has to be reevaluated because the lack of transparency causes people to believe that this system is hiding something that is a part of covering up the wrongs that are being perpetrated against Black people and others, as well.

We have to examine the system. That doesn’t mean that we have to eliminate the police departments. I don’t want to eliminate the police departments. I would never agree to eliminating the police departments. I believe you have to have policing in your community, so I am for policing. But I am for people being treated with dignity and respect at all times, even when you are performing the act of policing.

Tonight, I believe that on March 13, 2020, when Ms. Taylor lost her life, a 26-year-old Black woman, I believe that if she had been a 26-year-old White woman with the same circumstances, my belief is that she would probably not have lost her life.

But let’s assume that she would have. Then, I believe that there would be accountability because I believe there is color associated with crime and that people who enforce the laws don’t give the same level of attention to a Black person who is the victim of a crime as they do to White people. Not all the time, by the way. But if you look at it critically, it happens far too often, and we have to do something about it.

I am committed to bringing about that level of change. I know whether it will happen on my watch, but I do know this: On my watch, I will not be silent. On my watch, I will stand even if I have to stand alone because it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

We have some difficult days ahead. Dr. King reminded us of this. But we are seeing the difficulties manifest themselves before us on a daily basis—difficult days ahead.

I spoke about the color of the crime. Let’s talk about it just one more time as it relates to voting. It is intuitively obvious to even the most casual observer that there are efforts to suppress the vote, and those efforts to suppress the vote have a greater impact on Black people than they do a good many others.

Black people and brown people, minorities, this effort to suppress their vote is evident, self-evident. I believe that we who hold public trust must do something to prevent what is about to happen, to the extent that we can.

I don’t know that we can do what really should be done because of the tug of war between the parties, but I do know that we have to try. We have to make every person’s vote count in this country and give every person the opportunity to get registered to vote.

There are people who are doing their very best to circumvent the registration and participation of minorities in this system of voting. This system of voting is something that we cherish and that we have to exercise. As my dear friend John Lewis put it, it is something that you must use, and, he, intimated, if not, you may lose this precious right to vote.

So we have to exercise this right, but let us be realistic and acknowledge that there are people who are doing their best to suppress the rights of minorities when it comes to voting.

Remember, this is a country that had to pass the 13th Amendment to free people who were held in bondage. This is a country that had to pass a constitutional amendment to accord people who were held in bondage this right of citizenship and then the right to vote. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments essentially that we can do what really should be done because of the tug of war between the parties, but I do know that we have to try. We have to make every person’s vote count in this country and give every person the opportunity to get registered to vote.

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Houston, Texas, I want to say to them, in Houston, Texas, there was a case that is still pending. This is the case of Joshua Johnson. Joshua Johnson lost his life under questionable circumstances. The case is still being investigated, and the lack of transparency is something that concerns me as it relates to Joshua Johnson.

Joshua Johnson lived in the Ninth Congressional District, I happen to represent the Ninth Congressional District.

Joshua Johnson: killed under questionable circumstances.

We have the same system in place where there is a grand jury and a prosecutor, that I have great respect for, but we still have this same system. But Texas has a solution that is different from any other State in the country. There is no other State that has the solution that we have in Texas for these kinds of questionable killings.

In Texas, we have the opportunity to take such a case and move it through a justice system that has a court involved in it, as opposed to the grand jury, in the initial aspects of it, or it can be after the grand jury has given a ruling.

In Texas, we have the opportunity to go to a district court judge and present probable cause, and if that judge concludes that there is probable cause, that judge goes to an administrative judge, and the administrative judge can then appoint a judge to have a court of review to review what happened in this case.

It is time for us to look at something similar to this on the national level for our Nation.

I believe that a court of inquiry—which is what it is called in Texas. It reviews evidence. But a court of inquiry can make a difference on the national level, and, as a result, I plan to introduce legislation for us to have courts of inquiry at the national level so that we don’t have to depend on prosecutors and grand juries.

A court of inquiry in Texas allows any citizen who knows that a crime has been committed to present this evidence to a district court judge.

I believe a similar circumstance—maybe not the same—ought to exist for people when it comes to Federal crimes. So I will introduce legislation calling for a court of inquiry across the length and breadth of this country so that we may have transparency in this process.

I will not seek to eliminate the grand juries, but I will seek to give an alternative for citizens who are concerned about transparency when there are questionable circumstances, when you don’t have body cameras, when you have persons who are committing no crimes yet find themselves losing their lives at the hands of the constabulary.

I hope to have this legislation ready for this Congress, but if not, it will definitely be introduced for the next Congress. We need courts of inquiry or something similar to what we have in Texas.

I love my country. It means something to me to say that I am a part of this great country. I love it, and I do everything out of love for country and a belief that there should be liberty and justice for all, regardless of what you happen to be, regardless of your race, creed, color, or national origin.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time. I thank the leadership for giving me the opportunity to have this time on the floor.

I promise that I am going to do as much as I can to eliminate invidious discrimination in all of its forms.

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

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, Mr. GROTHMAN from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will remove my mask here for the speech since we are in a large room.

Today I would like to address the Chamber with regard to something I consider good news, because there is not enough good news that we talk about here. We always talk about the problems. But then I am going to add one thing to my attention of today. I am going to comment on one potential problem brought to my attention by one of my constituents, and I am going to ask the Committee on Education and Labor to take up that problem.

The first issue in which I received good news is with regard to immigration. Only 15 months ago, about 90,000 people were let in this country, largely because they asked to come here on asylum and, pending an asylum hearing, were let into the country.

Obviously, it would be preferable for our country if every person who was allowed in the country is appropriately vetted and we know will become a productive citizen. When we allow people in the country for other reasons, we get people here who will not necessarily be an asset to America and will ultimately, perhaps, ruin America.

This has been done by three things.

First of all, we have reached an agreement with Mexico, whereby the Mexican Government and the United States, there have been no military-connected casualties in Afghanistan. We have gone 7 months without a combat casualty of our troops abroad and keeping them out of harm’s way.

However, this week, showing up on a subcommittee of Government Oversight and Reform, to my surprise—again, these are statistics I almost can’t believe, they are so good—in the last 7 months since a preliminary agreement was reached between the Department of Homeland Security and the United States, there have been no military-connected casualties in Afghanistan. We have gone 7 months without a combat casualty of our troops in Afghanistan despite the fact that we have 8,000 or 9,000 troops there. If you would have told me that was possible 4 or 5 months ago, I wouldn’t have believed it. No military casualties during a 7-month period.

I was not aware of it until this week, and I, therefore, assume the vast number of Americans were not aware of it, but we should all be grateful that we have now gone 7 months in a row without a military casualty in Afghanistan.

The second thing that was done was President Trump reached agreements with countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to stop the spigot of more people coming into our country even south of Mexico. And, of course, these people came not only from other Central American countries, but South America and Africa as well.

Four times I toured the border, and I found people were coming across not only from Mexico, but from Central America. And, actually, people were coming from Asia and Africa to Brazil, and Central America to work their way north.

So I thank President Trump and I thank the Governments of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador for not allowing people through their country who are clearly planning on coming to the United States other than through the legal mechanisms that we have available.

Finally, President Trump allowed our Border Patrol and the Governments of those people to deal with the COVID epidemic. I know a lot of people wouldn’t have liked to do that, but President Trump put the United States first and now allows our Border Patrol to immediately turn people around.

The combination of these three things means we have gone from over 90,000 people a month coming into this country who we really haven’t vetted and are now, among people who are touched by the Border Patrol, under 2,000 people a month. As a matter of fact, I am told it is under 1,000 people a month, but that is almost too good to believe.

But that is good news for the American people, particularly when you consider all the people who come here are not appropriately vetted, wind up becoming a public charge perhaps, wind up involved in drug dealing perhaps. So that is your first good news of the night for America.

The second good news: I know when President Trump ran for this office, he talked about reducing the number of troops abroad and keeping them out of harm’s way.

Today, I would like to address the Chamber with regard to something I consider good news, because there is not enough good news that we talk about here. We always talk about the problems. But then I am going to add one potential problem brought to my attention by one of my constituents, and I am going to ask the Committee on Education and Labor to take up that problem.

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The third thing I would like to address tonight is dealing with possible medical advancements that can help us deal with the COVID pandemic. I sometimes feel, as I address the COVID pandemic, that our government agencies are focused solely on a vaccine and are not thinking outside the box.

Today I talked to a couple of researchers from Israel who continue to be optimistic on using fenofibrate, which is a drug which has traditionally been used to fight cholesterol.

Well, they don’t like to be nailed down because nobody knows how many lives would be saved if we gave people, in the beginning stages of the pandemic, fenofibrate. It is possible that we could reduce the number of fatalities by 30 to 40 percent.

Again, fenofibrate is an easily available, in generic form, drug used to treat cholesterol. There are, right now, over time, better drugs. It is not as used as it once was. But, nevertheless, their preliminary studies are very positive.

I wish our own CDC or NIH would get on the ball and help these researchers a little bit, because they feel they can have a definitive answer by winter. They feel that 3 months from now, we may have something that will be a cure for something like 30 to 40 percent—maybe 20 percent, maybe 30 percent—of the people who have this virus who now die.

Can you imagine if we could reduce the number of fatalities by 30 percent by a simple expedient, not of developing an expensive vaccine, but if we could save all these lives with an easily available generic drug used for cholesterol today?

Mr. Speaker, I again ask CDC and NIH to think outside the box and help these researchers and find out if their preliminary work is accurate, and then we can save so many lives even if a vaccine has not been developed.

So there is the good news, kind of good news and bad news in that one. The good news is we are on the cusp of a cure; the bad news is we have got to get the American bureaucracy to think outside the box.

The final thing I am going to address is some unfortunate news.

The prior speaker talked about people being treated differently, depending on who they are. It was brought to my attention 2 months ago of something I normally run on, or I ran on originally, by a woman who had two children who went to college.

She and her husband were hardworking, middle-class Americans. And like most hardworking, middle-class Americans, when their children went to college, they had to take out loans and both of their children had loans in the $30,000 to $50,000 category.

Because she did a good job of raising her children, they were hardworking, and working their way to paying off those loans, which is a good thing.

But she has talked to other people and she found out other people, who perhaps weren’t married, weren’t working as hard, that their children received grants from the government.

So in other words, if you get married and work hard, we treat your children different than people who don’t get married. And, of course, there are wonderful parents in such cases.

But just particularly, after we just got done with a speech pointing out that we should treat everybody the same, I would like to ask the Committee on Education and Labor to hold a hearing and find out if it is really true.

Are we penalizing children of married couples because of their parents’ marital status? Are they stuck paying $30,000, $40,000, $50,000 worth of student loans just because their parents are married, and they wouldn’t have had to take them out if their parents hadn’t been married?

So I am going to my good friend, the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, to look into this.

Recently, it has been in the paper that there are some powerful groups at work in the United States who are opposed to the nuclear family. So whether this is something that happened by accident, or whether it happened intentionally because of longstanding groups that are opposed to the old-fashioned, nuclear family, I would like to know.

And I think, given all of the hearings we have had around here on discrimination, it would be great if we could get to the bottom of this and find out whether my constituent is right and her children were both penalized $30,000 to $50,000 each just because their parents were married.

So I ask my good buddy from Virginia, the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and I appreciate the time on the floor tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we adjourn, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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. 914. An act to authorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establishment of a National Water Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources; in addition, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; and to the Committee on Financial Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 6 o’clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 25, 2020, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, etc.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

5381. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Control of Communicable Diseases; Foreign Quarantine: Suspension of the Right to Introduce and Prohibition of Introduction of Persons into United States from Designated Foreign Countries or Places for Public Health Purposes [Docket No.: CDC-2020-0033] (RIN: 0920-AA76) received September 22, 2020, 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.

5382. A letter from the Office, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s FY 2019 No FEAR Act report pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Public Law 107-174, 200(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(c)); (120 Stat. 3222); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5383. A letter from the Social Security Administration, Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office’s final rule — Federal Employees’ Retirement System; Purposes of Value Credit for Spouses of Deceased Separated Employees (RIN: 0206-AN03) received September 22, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5384. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule — Medicare Program: Specialty Care Models to Improve Quality of Care and Reduce Expenditures [CMS-332-F] (RIN: 0938-AT78) received September 22, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

5385. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board’s Office of Inspector General FY 2022 budget request, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 5311(f); August 25, 1985, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 93-538); August 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 93-538); (RIN: 0920-AA76) received September 22, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5386. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board’s Office of Inspector General FY 2022 budget request, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 5311(f); August 25, 1985, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 93-538); August 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 93-538); (RIN: 0920-AA76) received September 22, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.
Public Health Service Act to reauthorize school-based health centers, and for other purposes (Rept. 116–533). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 8225. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain types of fraud in the provision of immigration services, and for other purposes (Rept. 116–533). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 8124. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for transportation of an accused for criminal defense purposes, and for other purposes (Rept. 116–533). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 8033. A bill to provide for orderly and secure transition to the marketplace, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DeLAURO (for herself, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. NORTON, Ms. Education and Labor, and Ms. De LAURO of California, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SERRA, Mr. DIGGS, Mr. SWEWELL of Alabama, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. Sires, Ms. VELEZquez, Mr. LOWE of California, Ms. MOFFETT, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. MOORE):
H.R. 8371. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for establishment of an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion within each covered agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DeLAURO.
H.R. 8372. A bill to provide for flexibility and to broaden and increase employee protections at work, to protect small businesses through shared responsibility for workers' rights, to provide public transparency on workers' rights violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. EMMER, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. MOORE):
H.R. 8378. A bill to amend the securities laws to exclude investment contract assets from the definition of a security; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. TSAI):
H.R. 8384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide eligibility for rural community response pilot programs for funding under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Prevention Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. LAMB of Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. SCHAKOwsky, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCALONI, Mr. CONGREGALDI, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. DEMINGs, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MOORE):
H.R. 8387. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for a Family Crisis Cash
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Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. MULLIN (for himself and Mr. ROUZI):
H.R. 8388. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage appropriate prescribing under Medicaid for victims of child abuse, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMUCKER:
H.R. 8389. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to convey of certain properties to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. RESCHENTHALER):
H.R. 8390. A bill to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program to make grants to eligible entities to develop instructional content on artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on 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. MULLIN (for himself and Mr. ROUZI):
H.R. 8391. A bill to support pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships within the National Apprenticeship Act, specifically with regard to the justice-imprisoned population; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. CASTOR of Florida):
H.R. 8392. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 8393. A bill to provide student loan forgiveness to health care workers who are on the frontline in response to COVID-19; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, 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 Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. LEE of California):
H.R. 8394. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat diapers as qualified medical expenses; and to prohibit States and local governments to impose a tax on the retail sale of diapers; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the judiciary, 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. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. POSTER, and Mr. RASKIN):
H.R. 8395. A bill to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. McCaul, Ms. SOTO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. WHITIG):
H.R. 8396. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require training, for teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, re-

spend to, and report child sexual abuse in primary and secondary education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. WILD:
H.R. 8397. A bill to designate the National Service Animals Monument to recognize the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on National Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:
H.R. 8398. A bill to provide for the continuation of higher education through the convocation to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself and Mr. RIGGLEMAN):
H.R. Res. 95. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. BOOZ, Mr. HICH of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. NORMAN):
H. Res. 1148. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. WATSON COLEMAN):
H. Res. 1149. A resolution recognizing the need for diapers and expressing support for donating generously to diaper banks, diaper drives, and organizations that distribute diapers to families in need; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself, Ms. BASS, and Mr. YOHO):
H. Res. 1150. A resolution urging the Government of Côte d’Ivoire, opposition leaders, and all citizens to respect democratic principles, refrain from violence, and hold free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections in October 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTZEE, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. PRESSLEY):
H. Res. 1151. A resolution recognizing violence against women in politics as a gender phenomenon and supporting women’s full and meaningful participation in political life; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.

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. DEAN:
H.R. 8396. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CURTIS:
H.R. 8397. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 8398. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:
H.R. 8399. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 8370. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mrs. BUSTOS:
H.R. 8371. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:
H.R. 8372. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CONAWAY:
H.R. 8373. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. DELAURIE:
H.R. 8374. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 8375. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. DEGLADO:
H.R. 8376. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. DE SAU/LIER:
H.R. 8377. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. EMMER:
H.R. 8378. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. ESHOO:
H.R. 8379. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. FRANKE:
H.R. 8380. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mrs. GARCIA of Texas:
H.R. 8381. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Sec. 8: 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 or Officer thereof.
By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio: H.R. 8382. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution stating that Congress has the authority to "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution foregone powers, and other powers vested by this Constitution."

By Mr. GUTHRIE: H.R. 8383. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. LAHOOD: H.R. 8385. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." In addition, Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution provides: "The Congress shall have Power. . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . ."

By Mr. LAMBS: H.R. 8386. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. MOORE: H.R. 8387. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution by Mr. MULLIN: H.R. 8388. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. SMUCKER: H.R. 8389. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. TONKO: H.R. 8390. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. TRONE: H.R. 8391. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18. To enact, Mr. TRONE: H.R. 8392. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. VAN DREW: H.R. 8393. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN: H.R. 8394. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
By Ms. WEXTON: H.R. 8395. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. WILD: H.R. 8396. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section VIII
By Mr. YOUNG: H.R. 8398. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
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 any Department or Officer thereof
By Mr. PETERSON: H.J. Res. 95. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 141: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 444: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 669: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 732: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 913: Mrs. Davis of California and Mr. HAGDORN.
H.R. 961: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KIM, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1074: Ms. SCHERR.
H.R. 1297: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1314: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Mr. PATNETTA.
H.R. 1340: Mr. STEFANIK.
H.R. 1375: Mr. O’HALLORAN.
H.R. 1373: Mr. STEFANIK.
H.R. 2350: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. FTTZPATRICK.
H.R. 2342: Mr. MENG.
H.R. 2319: Ms. SCHERR.
H.R. 2610: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 2668: Mr. STEFANIK.
H.R. 2808: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2863: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. DIASALOIN.
H.R. 3131: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DAVÍD of Illinois, Ms. SPIER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3308: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 3359: Mr. RIGGLEMAN and Ms. HAALAND.
H.R. 3711: Mr. COHEN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. SUCZEL.
H.R. 3760: Ms. SHALALA.
H.R. 4156: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 4211: Mr. DIASALOIN.
H.R. 4283: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 4399: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 4705: Mr. THOMSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4822: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 5006: Mr. COX of California.
H.R. 5076: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. PORTEER, and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 5126: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 514: Mr. ACUILAR, Mr. KIM, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5477: Mr. CLAY and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 5605: Mr. COX of California.
H.R. 5610: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 5759: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 5957: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. PETERSON, and Mrs. LESEK.
H.R. 5966: Mr. EVANS, Mr. SHUH, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. KHANNA, Mr. SARLAN, and Ms. ESCHOO.
H.R. 6197: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 6216: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 6733: Mr. ROSE of New York.
H.R. 6743: Mr. NEAL, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCONNELL, Mr. KAPTRU, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 6794: Ms. TLAH.
H.R. 7052: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 7071: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HAGDORN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. BILLRAKIS.
H.R. 7072: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 7197: Mr. STEVERS, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 7241: Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. CASE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 7286: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 7393: Miss Rose of New York.
H.R. 7397: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. NEUSE.
H.R. 7411: Mr. BRYER.
H.R. 7443: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. KAPTRU, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SCHRAIDER, Mr. HOULAHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ANNE, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 7481: Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. GARGINE, Mr. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. CARROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KIM, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. PORTER, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. YOHOO.
H.R. 7483: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KIM, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 7524: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 7586: Mr. KIM, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 7603: Mr. GOTTHEIM.
H.R. 7631: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 7642: Mr. BEHMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BUCHON, Mr. YOHOO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HERCULANEUM, Mr. CHASTIT, Mr. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. STANTON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. LIPPEN, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. VELA, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 7690: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 7705: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 7753: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma and Mr. GOTTHEIM.
H.R. 7806: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CROW, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 7809: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 7816: Ms. MILLER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. PANETTA, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. BARRACK, Mr. WOLF of New York, Mr. DEAN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. SHERRMAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HICK, and Ms. BASS.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, many Kentuckians have channeled their continuing grief and anger in peaceful exercises of their First Amendment rights. But in Louisville last night, we saw more of the lawlessness, riots, and violence that have plagued American cities too often this year. Citizens’ businesses were vandalized, citizens’ homes were burned, and two officers of the Metro Police Department were shot and wounded while protecting public safety downtown. As of last night, one officer was still undergoing surgery, but both were in stable condition. We are praying that both will make full recoveries. One suspect is in custody.

Peaceful protests honor the memory of Breonna Taylor. Peaceful protests move us toward justice. Smashing windows does not. Setting fires does not. Rioting in the streets does not. Trying to gun down law enforcement officers who were bravely serving their community is the kind of despicable cowardice that must be met with the full force of the law.

I sincerely thank all the Kentucky peace officers who continue to put their lives on the line every single day. I hope and expect that our Governor and mayor will take every necessary step to secure the justice, peace, law, and order that every Kentuckian deserves.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, President Trump has stated he will announce his nominee to the Supreme Court the day after tomorrow. We do not yet know which legal all-star from the list he will nominate, but strangely enough, we already do know exactly what the far left will start shouting the instant—the instant—she or he is introduced.

Isn’t that a little curious, when you stop to think about it? A confirmation process is ostensibly about the qualifications and credentials of the nominee, so why is it that practically any citizen could sit down at their kitchen

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, help us. Turn us back to the paths of integrity and faith. Be for our lawmakers a protecting rock of safety, rescuing them from the powers of evil. Help them to fix their hearts on You, trusting Your guidance and wisdom. May love for You be reflected in the ordering of their priorities as they seek to serve You first place in every important decision. Lord, make them servants of Your purposes as they seek to increase the treasures of Your Kingdom. Satisfy the deepest longings of their hearts.

And, Lord, in these toxic and cacophonous times, bless America.

May love for You be reflected in the ordering of their priorities as they seek to give You first place in every important decision. Lord, make them servants of Your purposes as they seek to increase the treasures of Your Kingdom. Satisfy the deepest longings of their hearts.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I have spoken repeatedly in recent months about the tragic killing of Breonna Taylor in my hometown of Louisville, the need for justice, and the healing work ahead for our community.

Kentucky’s attorney general, Daniel Cameron, conducted exactly the kind of thorough and impartial investigation that justice demands. Yesterday, that chapter concluded, and the grand jury conducted the handoff to criminal prosecution. I have full confidence in the attorney general’s painstaking pursuit of facts and justice.

Many Kentuckians have channeled their continuing grief and anger in a peaceful exercise of their First Amend-
table right now, days—days—before the nomination, and write down in advance the list of ludicrous accusations the far left has guaranteed to be screaming by Saturday night? It is because year after year, decade after decade, the far left’s playbook stays exactly the same. To the American people.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford put forward a nominee whom he was assessing: “Women’s rights” and “an extraordinary record—every single time. The exact same liberal organization stated they were going to hear. But whenever a Republican President makes a nomination, it is a non-event by comparison. The coastal media allow our national life to go on like normal. But whenever a Republican dares to nominate someone, the Left would declare it a state of emergency.

So, sadly, we already know what reaction we will see on Saturday: fill-in-the-blank opposition. Remember, in 2017, we saw literal fill-in-the-blank opposition. Demonstrators wanted to assemble outside the Court before they even knew who President Trump would name, so they literally brought stacks of signs that said: “Oppose (blank)!”. And they brought markers so they could scribble in the name during the President’s remarks before the TV cameras got to them.

In 2018, moments after the President announced now-Justice Kavanaugh, one leftwing group published a typi-
cally absurd statement declaring “Trump’s announcement today is a death sentence”—“a death sentence”—and “white patriarchal supremacists now have free reign.”

The actual nominee was so irrelevant to their scam that they literally forgot to fill in the blank. The very first line of their press release condemned “Donald Trump’s nomination of XX to the Supreme Court.”

So it is safe to say the American people can start writing their bingo cards right now. We already know every cut-
landish claim and unhinged attack we are going to hear.

In fact, former Vice President Biden has already cut to the front of the line. Just yesterday, he offered the following statement after learning whom he was assessing: “Women’s rights as it relates to everything from medical health care is going to be gone.” This is former Vice President Biden yesterday. Good luck deciphering what he is trying to say. It sounds like more of the same old junk. Perhaps the Nation will soon watch this man in his late seventies condemn the American people to one of the brilliant women whom President Trump indicates he is considering.

Fortunately, the far-left scam artists do not get a vote. The special interest groups’ fundraising appeals do not get a vote. The fate of this nomination will be determined by the U.S. Senators whom the American people elected to do this job: a fair hearing, a fair process, and a fair vote on the actual nominee. Forget about fill-in-the-blank.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of my colleagues, the vote on the confirmation of the Young nomination will occur at 11:30 a.m. today.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The Presiding Officer. The clerk will report the unfinished business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Roderick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the confirmation of the Young nomination be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, our adversaries sow disinformation in our society and seek to influence our elections. Vladimir Putin will stop at nothing to diminish Western democracies. A resurgent China wants to take America’s place on the world stage. But the gravest threat to our democracy now does not come from any foreign capital; it comes from our own. The gravest threat to democracy in America is President Donald Trump.

Yesterday, at a news conference, President Trump refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power should he lose the election in 41 days. Let me repeat that. Yesterday, at a news conference, President Trump refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power should he lose the election in 41 days. Well, we agree on one thing: no matter what happens,” he said. “I’ve been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster.”
Pressed further, the President said: “Get rid of the ballots . . . there won’t be a transfer, frankly. There will be a continuation.”

“Get rid of the ballots . . . there won’t be a transfer, frankly. There will be a continuation.”

Those are all his words: Get rid of voting; get rid of the ballots. Just let him stay in power whatever illicit way he chooses to do so. That is what he is saying. Now, everywhere from school children to the most senior among us knows that the peaceful transfer of power is one of democracy’s core attributes. There is no democracy without it. Like the rule of law, the separation of powers, checks and balances, everything we have learned that is great and noble about our system in government, President Trump has succumbed, diminished, and now he threatens to actually dismantle. The greatest threat to American democracy right now is Donald Trump.

The President issued similar threats in the run-up to the 2016 election, and he is doing it again now. If I win, the election is legitimate, argues the President, but if I lose, it is rigged. That is what he is saying now: If I win, the election is legitimate, but if I lose, it is rigged. By the way, I may just stay in office and not count the ballots. Unbelievable.

The gravest threat to American democracy right now is President Trump. Save for a few, the Republican majority here in the Senate practically brushes it by: They don’t know the full context. Oh, the President says crazy things. Maybe he was joking.

They are willing to continue ramming through a Supreme Court Justice whom the President said is needed “before the election . . . because [the election] will be before the United States Supreme Court.”

Where are our Republican colleagues? This is not a partisan issue. Democracy is at stake. Every constituent from every corner of the land, regardless of party or ideology, should be asking the Republican Senators to speak out and demand that Donald Trump not be allowed to do what he says he is going to do and say they will join all of America in standing in the way if he tries.

The most innocent interpretation of the President’s comments is that he is just trying to get people not to vote: Mail-in voting is “rigged.” I am going to stay anyway, he cries. “Twelve more years,” they chant at his rallies—all to erode American faith in the election and discourage Americans from voting. It doesn’t matter how false, it doesn’t matter how undemocratic, it doesn’t matter how corrosive it is to our democracy, the President doesn’t care. It is his own ego and nothing else. The President says it if he thinks it will help him win. That is the most innocent interpretation.

If you take the President at his word, he wants to throw out ballots, refuse the peaceful transfer of power, and rush through a Supreme Court Justice to ensure that they could rule in his favor if the election is contested. That is him at his word.

According to a new article in The Atlantic magazine, “A handful of Republicans are actually considering a scheme to overthrow the will of the voters in certain States. Under this nefarious scheme, if the President loses a State controlled by Republicans, they would ignore the result; they would ignore what the votes cast for the slate of electors to Washington instead, deliberately provoking a constitutional crisis.”

Every American should read this article.

Mr. President, I refer my colleagues to this link for the article: https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/11/what-if-trump-refuses-concede/61624/.

If you read these facts in a story about Belarus or Hungary, you might not bat an eye, but this is America. This is America. And here in America, our elections are sacrosanct. The peaceful transfer of power is our lifeblood. The rule of law is the very foundation of our society. These currents run deep in our veins and are far stronger than the flimsy authoritarianism of President Trump.

President Trump, you are not a dictator, and America will not permit you to be one. We will not permit you to be one.

This November, we will have an election. The votes will be counted. It may take a little longer than usual because so many people will vote by mail because of COVID, but the votes will be counted. There are numerous lawsuits making sure it happens, and those lawsuits are succeeding. The results of the election must be accepted. The peaceful transfer of power must follow. Otherwise, we will lose our democracy.

At this perilous moment, every Republican in this Chamber should stand up and say that a President who isn’t entirely sure if he will commit to a peaceful transfer of power isn’t a President at all. Stand up and say he is wrong and that you don’t want to live in a country where he is right. Pledge to uphold the pillars of our country. If Republicans stand up and say this is wrong, that may—maybe—be enough to sway this President or his followers from repeating these attacks.

And there is something every citizen can do, particularly those who are alarmed or discouraged by what President Trump said this week: Vote. The President cannot deny your right to vote. The answer to these naked threats to our democracy is more democracy: Vote.

Don’t let Trump intimidate or discourage you. Vote. Vote like our democracy is at stake because it is.

Vote, vote, vote.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS
Madam President, in 2016, Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans held a Supreme Court vacancy open for nearly a year on the supposed principle that “the American people should have a voice in [selecting] their next Supreme Court Justice.”

Now, 41 days before a national election in which we might have a new President, Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans are again nominating a Supreme Court Justice mere weeks before an election, a case that will be heard 1 week after the election, a case that could rip away healthcare from tens of millions of Americans in the midst of a pandemic, and Leader McConnell says this is “hysterical.” Go tell a mother or father whose son or daughter has

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cancer and they can't get insurance because they no longer have the protection that it is hysterical. Shame.

This is real stuff, and this is not speculation. There is a suit before the Supreme Court right now on this issue. Specifically, is it not President Trump who said that women should be punished for having an abortion? Was it not the Republican majority who confirmed the majority of judges to the Federal bench with disturbing views on a woman's right to choose? Was it not the Republican leader who has admitted that he hopes to "pick away" at women's rights through the courts?

What about workers' rights? What about voting rights? The Supreme Court, even with Justice Ginsburg, slowly eroded workers' rights in the Janus case and voter rights in the Shelby County case, opening the door for a flood of voter suppression efforts.

Imagine—just imagine, America—what another rightwing Justice, a solid 6-to-3 majority would mean for a Court that has already eroded your rights?

This is not speculation. Oh, no. This is about every right and freedom that Americans hold dear. It is no wonder that teachers and publishers are afraid to test this in an election and are so eager to rush this nomination through.

BRIONNA TAYLOR

Madam President, yesterday, a grand jury in Kentucky declined to charge three officers in the shooting of Breonna Taylor. One was indicted on minor charges of wanton endangerment. The other two will face no charges at all.

Today, I and millions and millions of Americans grieve for the family of Breonna Taylor, knowing that justice will not be served in the murder of their daughter. The fact that an African-American woman can have her life taken while she sleeps in her own bed and her people are not held accountable is a harrowing reminder that something is very, very broken in our system. It is another reminder that we are in desperate need of comprehensive policing reform.

A few months ago, in the aftermath of George Floyd's death, Senate Democrats introduced the Justice in Policing Act. It would ban no-knock warrants in Federal drug cases. It was the no-knock warrants that hurt—that killed—Breonna Taylor. It would ban choke holds, which would make it easier for Americans to hold police departments accountable when they violate their civil and constitutional rights. The House passed this important bill in June.

Here in the Senate, Leader McConnell, typically, refused to take it up at all. But we will not stop fighting until we finally bring that lasting change that our Nation needs, change that protects, civil rights organizations, and the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor are still, tragically, waiting for.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, in 2002, 18 years ago, Senator Tom Daschle raised a similar resolution—a resolution on the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance. With unanimous support in the U.S. Senate, it passed on the floor uneventfully and without amendment. This body can choose to do the same today—to reaffirm our support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I also rise to honor a Hoosier who understood the innate value of the Pledge of Allegiance to civic education. In 1969, Red Skelton, an American comedian and entertainer who was well known for his program on CBS, "The Red Skelton Hour," wrote a speech on the importance of the pledge. In reflecting on his time in Vincennes, IN, he wanted to talk about how important the value instilled by it is still applicable today. After the performance of his speech, CBS received 200,000 requests for copies. His speech would go on to be sold as a single by Columbia Records.

I think it would be an honor to repeat this, and I will do so after yielding the floor to my colleague, Senator Scott from Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. First of all, I thank my colleague, my friend from Indiana, for his absolute commitment of trying to make an impact on what is going on in Washington. We both came up here at the same time, and I have enjoyed working with him every day.

I had the opportunity to pursue the American dream. I got involved in politics because I saw that dream slipping away for far too many. All Americans should have hope for this country's future.

For me, I grew up poor. I never met my biological father. My adopted father was a busdriver, with only a sixth grade education, who did all four combat jumps with the 82nd Airborne in World War II. We lived in public housing. Even though my mom had no money, she was optimistic and hopeful. She told us we were blessed because God and our Founders created the greatest country ever, where anything was possible.

Unfortunately, the left discredits those who believe in a supreme being or the commitment of marriage, and it doesn't place value in family. The left doesn't care about our enormous debt and pushes for socialism. The left thinks it is OK that our churches, our law enforcement, our morals, and almost everything my mom taught me. Yet we join today to honor the Pledge of Allegiance, the very spirit of our Nation—"one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." That is the America I, along with my colleagues here, are fighting for.

The values that I grew up with—the ones my 'tough love' mom taught me—are becoming a way of the past, but I believe these values, these virtues, can and should be part of our country's future.

I love it when my grandchildren pray before eating, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, want to visit museums, thank police officers and soldiers for their service, and place their hands over their hearts when they hear the national anthem. I hope they memorize the Declaration of Independence and the 22nd Psalm.

We will not give up on the American dream and a nation where anything is possible. We will not let the radical left take away our freedom and opportunity.

Again, I thank Senator B RAUN for leading this effort today. Freedom is fleeting and worth fighting for, and we will not stop fighting for the country I was raised in because that is the country our children and our grandchildren deserve.

I yield to Senator B RAUN.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I thank Senator Scott. The emphasis on faith, family, community, freedom, liberty, and equal opportunity is what makes this country great. We can never forget it, for it is embedded in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I return now to reading the point of view from Red Skelton. This is in terms of his recollection when he was a kid back in Vincennes, IN.

He begins:

I heard, I think, one of the most outstanding speeches I have ever heard in my life. I think it compares with the "Sermon on the Mount," Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," and Socrates' speech to the students. We had just finished reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he [Mr. Lowell, the principal of Vincennes High School] called us all together, and he says, "Oh, boys and girls, I have been listening to you recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems that it has become monotonous to you. Or, could it be, you do not understand the meaning of each word? If I may, I would like to recite the pledge, and give you a definition for each word."

I saw this many years ago myself, and when I looked at the video again, I
thought it would behoove everyone to listen to his own words back when he did it on CBS.

I—Me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge—Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance—My love and my devotion.

To the Flag—Our standard. “Old Glory” a symbol of courage. And wherever she waves, there is trust, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts “Freedom is everybody’s job.” of the United—That means we have all come together.

States—Individual communities that have united into 48 great states; 48 individual communities, poles and dimes in purpose; all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that’s love of country—Of America.

And to the Republic—A sovereign state in which power is invested into the representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people, and it’s from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands—

One Nation—Meaning “so blessed by God.”

[Under God]

Indivisible—Incapable of being divided.

With liberty—which freedom; the right of power for one to live his [or her] own life without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.

And Justice—The principle and qualities of dealing fairly with others.

For All—That means, boys and girls, it’s as much your country as it is mine.

Afterward, Mr. Laswell asked his students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance together, with a newfound appreciation and reinvigoration for the words: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Mr. Skelton concluded his speech by saying:

Since I was a small boy, two States have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: “Under God.” Wouldn’t it be a pity if someone should pray—and that be eliminated from our schools, too?

Just as those students that day, Mr. Red Skelton included, recommitted to the meaning of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, I call upon the U.S. Senate to recommit to the meaning of these words.

There are times today that the words of the pledge are tossed around without too much care. Other times, they are altered to remove what today is deemed offensive or antiquated, but America would not misuse or abuse the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is meant to remind Americans of our guiding principles and inspire adherence to those ideas which make our country great; equality under the law and recognized rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 715) expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to.

The Pledge of Allegiance, I call upon the U.S. Senate to recommit to the meaning of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, I ask unanimous consent that

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate from Texas.

Mr. CORNHOLLER. Madam President, I just want to say how much I appreciate the resolution of the Senate from Indiana. It reminds me of discussions I know all of us have had about the teaching of American history and civics in our schools and, frankly, a collective concern that our children are being raised and educated without learning both about our founding principles and how unique we are as a nation. I think, as modest a step as this may seem, it is an important one, and I congratulate our friend from Indiana for taking it.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Madam President, in a letter to our Democratic colleagues earlier this week, my friend, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, pointed out the vastly different treatment of Supreme Court nominees by the respective political parties.

He wrote: “Compare the treatment of Robert Bork, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Brett Kavanaugh to that of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan, and it’s clear that there already is one set of rules for a Republican president and another set of rules for a Democrat president.”

This double standard is not just fiction or our imagination at play. Two years ago, we saw the outrageous smear campaign that our Democratic colleagues waged against Justice Brett Kavanaugh and his family. I have noted that it is not just enough to defeat a nomination; they actually were out to destroy his reputation.

While I hope it is something no nominee will have to endure again, I worry that history will repeat itself. The President has yet to even announce his nominee for the Supreme Court for the second time this year. With the upcoming election of Justice Ginsburg, but our Democratic colleagues are already reflexively taking potshots at potential nominees.

One of those potential nominees is Judge Amy Coney Barrett, who is a well-respected Federal judge with an impressive background as a legal scholar. While serving on the Seventh Circuit, Judge Barrett has shown that she will faithfully and impartially apply the law. In two cases before her, but in the eyes of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, her stellar resume has one glaring flaw—her strong Catholic faith.

During Judge Barrett’s confirmation hearing for her current position on the circuit court, the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary asked Judge Barrett if she could separate her religious beliefs from her legal duties, saying: “The dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s a concern.”

During my time in the Senate, I don’t recall any similar application of a religious test to a nominee or such intrusive questions about how their faith might impact their abilities to court the daily job. But, apparently, some on the other side of the aisle believe that a Christian woman is unable to separate her religious beliefs from her role on the bench. Yet, again, there is a different standard for nominees of a Republican President. But the Constitution provides that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.”

In other words, it is unconstitutional to impose a religious test on a nominee or on any person who holds public office.

Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues’ efforts to destroy conservative nominees are getting more and more outrageous—false accusations, religious tests, and threats to upend institutions, like packing the Court. It is terrifying to imagine what might come next.

In 2016, the American people elected President Trump knowing the type of nominees he would send us because he advertised and released a list of potential nominees to the Supreme Court they were he elected.

At the same time, the American people also relected a Senate majority committed to supporting the President’s nominees to the Federal bench. On both counts, we delivered, first, with the confirmation of Justice Gorsuch and, then, with the confirmation of Justice Kavanaught.

We are once again prepared to deliver on our promise to the American people and to consider another highly qualified jurist to the Supreme Court. We will not rush this process. My colleagues and I on the Judiciary Committee will do our job and thoroughly examine the nominee, just as we would any other nominee to the Court.

Then, every single Member of the Senate will have the chance to debate and vote for or against that nominee right here on the Senate floor. This confirmation will be as thorough as it always has been, but my hope is that this time it will also be civil, and that

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNHOLLER. Madam President, I just want to say how much I appreciate the resolution of the Senate from Indiana. It reminds me of discussions I know all of us have had about the teaching of American history and civics in our schools and, frankly, a collective concern that our children are being raised and educated without learning both about our founding principles and how unique we are as a nation. I think, as modest a step as this may seem, it is an important one, and I congratulate our friend from Indiana for taking it.

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the threats and religious tests end today.

**Hispanic Heritage Month**

Madam President, on another matter, I have the great honor of representing nearly 29 million Texans, roughly 40 percent of whom are Hispanic. I am proud of the role we have experienced the tremendous influence of the Hispanic community on our country and on our culture. Much of that culture, of course, dates back to a time long before the Lone Star flag or the American flag flew over Texas.

The first sovereign flag planted on Texas soil was Spanish, and that sprawling Spanish colony extended all the way to modern-day Chile. When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, it won all of Texas as well, and when Texas fought for its independence, soldiers of Mexican and European descent stood together on the Texas side in support of an independent republic.

It is unfair to say that Hispanic culture has influenced Texas because, in reality, Hispanic culture is as much a part of our State’s foundation as the ground that our cities are built on.

Today, Texas is home to more than 13 million Hispanic Americans who have lived there for generations and others who have contributed to the recent rapid growth of the population of the Lone Star State. Since 2010, the Hispanic population has grown by more than 4.5 million in my State, and the positive impact of Latinos across our State continues to grow.

Every year, during this month in particular, I am proud to join millions of my fellow Texans in celebrating the heritage that is uniquely woven into the fabric of our State and our nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, which officially commenced last week, we honor and celebrate Hispanic and Latino Americans and the traditions and cultures that make up our heritage, which include Mexican, Spanish, and Puerto Rican cultures.

For the past 12 years, I have joined our colleague Senator Menendez from New Jersey and a number of other bipartisan cosponsors in introducing a resolution to formally recognize September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. It is a time we take to honor Latinos who, for generations, have served in our military, held elected office, grown small businesses, and contributed to our communities in big and small ways to make our country better.

Today, Texas is proud to have incredible Hispanic-American leaders who are shaping our States’ and our Nation’s futures and inspiring the next generation. At the highest levels of public service in my State, we have incredible leaders like Ruth Hughes, our secretary of State, and Justice Eva Guzman, the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Texas Supreme Court.

Our communities are learning from inspiring women like Sister Norma Pimentel, who is executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and led the creation of the respite center in McAllen to help care for migrants coming across our border.

They are seeing the incredible work of organizations like Buckner International, led by Dr. Albert Reyes, which has set up hope centers around the world that help families become self-sufficient.

Entrepreneurs are looking to business leaders like my friend Ramiro Cavazos, who is president and CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For more than 40 years, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber has been an incredible resource for Hispanic business owners across the State, and their advocacy has been invaluable, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier this summer, I was able to virtually connect with U.S. Hispanic Chamber members across Texas to discuss the relief provided by Congress in four major pieces of legislation, as well as to learn more about the challenges that they have faced and what more we might be able to do.

I have also been able to speak with Hispanic healthcare leaders, who are instrumental in Texas’s fight against this virus.

Over the summer, we saw a dramatic increase in positive cases and fatalities in the Rio Grande Valley, which is predominantly Hispanic. Last month I visited the valley for conversations with local officials and healthcare leaders in our hospitals in our communities. The result of that study was the CARES Act funding that we passed in four separate pieces of legislation, as well as the hurdles they continue to have and are fighting to overcome.

During our discussion, I heard from Hispanic leaders in the healthcare industry, like Manny Vela, who is the CEO of Valley Baptist Health System, and Cris Rivera, who is CEO of the Rio Grande Regional Hospital.

Strong leadership at the local level has come to mean more important, and I am grateful for those who are continuing to help our communities through this crisis.

For nearly a century, our State has also benefited from the work of the League of United Latin American Citizens. otherwise known as LULAC, which is led by Domingo Garcia, and for years has benefited from the leadership of Laredo native Roger Rocha. LULAC fights to improve opportunities for Hispanic students. Particularly when it comes to education, and it is an avid supporter of Hispanic-serving institutions.

Last week the Senate passed a resolution Senator Menendez and I introduced to honor these institutions, which are inspiring Hispanic students to achieve their dreams through a quality education. Despite the fact that these colleges and universities only represent 17 percent of nonprofits colleges and universities, they enroll two-thirds of all Latino students, totaling more than 2.5 million students nationwide.

Texas is home to 100 Hispanic-serving institutions, more or less, and these colleagues and universities are helping to prepare the next generation of leaders for our future. This month is the perfect opportunity to celebrate their incredible work and acknowledge the important role these institutions play in my State and in our country, and I am pleased this legislation passed with unanimous support.

I hope we can also pass legislation I introduced to honor the contributions of Hispanic Americans for generations to come.

However, Americans of all ages visit Washington, they are able to learn the stories of great Americans through the Smithsonian museums, which welcomed more than 22 million visitors last year. These museums house priceless pieces of American history, from the Star-Spangled Banner, which inspired the national anthem, to the hat that President Lincoln wore on the night he was assassinated.

Unfortunately, these museums don’t represent the diversity of the American story, but that is slowly changing. In recent decades, the Smithsonian Institution family has grown to include the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

But it is time for another addition. More than a decade ago, in 2008, President Bush signed into law the National Museum of the American Latino Commission Act to study how to establish a Latino museum. The results of that study found that the Latino representation within the Smithsonian Institution is far from what it should be and challenged us to provide their story and to make sure it is represented there.

I am thinking of the U.S. Latino community as a whole, which numbers some 60 million people, but I am also thinking of individual men and women—people like Juan Seguin, who, in some ways, was a predecessor of mine. He came from Mexican descent and was a Texas senator before Texas even joined the Union. So in many ways, he was one of the forefathers of my State, and his contributions, like so many others, are an important part of our multifaceted American story.

We need to ensure that every American has the opportunity to learn about people like Juan Seguin and the countless other Latinos who have played pivotal roles in our State.

Last year, Senator Menendez and I reintroduced a bill with a bipartisan group of Senators who would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to create a museum honoring American Latinos here in Washington. This has been a work in progress since 2003, and this legislation will finally put that into motion.

The bill passed the House unanimously this summer, and between the House and Senate, we have more than 340 bipartisan cosponsors.

The time has come to turn the dream of this museum into reality. There is
It is no exaggeration to say that there are few people in the world with a better grasp of the complicated water issues in the Klamath Basin. We have a saying in the West that “whiskey, that’s for drinking; water, that’s for fighting.” It is so essential to so many aspects of our economy and our natural system.

For 12 years, Amy engaged in shuttle diplomacy over long-term solutions to water shortages. She found ways to help farmers and ranchers save their livelihoods during shattering droughts, truly making herself an indispensable facilitator to stakeholders across the board and an indispensable facilitator as I tried to work out agreements. That really came in handy with the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, developing that effort to have the stakeholders share a common vision for the future. It really came in handy when we worked to get funds to address the devastating droughts in 2010 and 2011. She worked to help the farmers who depended on irrigation but had no water to be able to temporarily, for a season, retire their water rights and therefore have some income for their ranch or their farm or be able to have money to pump groundwater to compensate for the lack of irrigation water during those drought years.

One of the issues has been the water quality in the Klamath Basin and the competing environmental rules regarding the river and the lake, and a piece of that is the recovery of two endan-gered species. So she helped to put all the details together to hold the Sucker Science Summit, which brought together again the farmers, ranchers, Tribes, scientists, local government officials, and Federal officials to devise a plan for the long-term survival of the C’waam and Koptu suckerfish in the Klamath Basin.

There is no doubt that Southern Oregon could not have asked for a better advocate or mentor over these past 12 years. I have appreciated her diligence, her humor, her positive attitude, and her candor about our smart political tac-tics or policy tactics and our mistakes. I could share some of those stories, but perhaps they are better shared through the eyes of our fellow team members, so I will read some of their comments.

The first goes as follows: Amy is the definition of dedication. No one can out work her. She is committed and she will keep asking pushing buttons until she makes progress on an issue. She is fearless. She has been such a great leader and mentor for not only the field team, but the entire state staff. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to learn from her. Oregon is a better place to live because of her service and she will be dearly missed.

A second team member expressed this: When I think of Amy I think about her fearlessness. A distant field rep’s job is really challenging—(the rep) is the face and the voice of the Senator and you are all alone, at the front, out in the field. Despite all our communications breakthroughs you are still all by yourself, driving remote high-ways, walking into rooms full of strangers, never knowing what is going to be thrown at you. They want a Senator, and instead they get you. Amy was open about her questions and concerns, but once out there and on her own, we always had confidence she would do and say the right thing.

A third team member said this: No surprise that she is leaving behind big shoes. She makes covering some of the larger cities and most difficult issues in the state look easy. Her knowledge of the issues run deep and her contacts in counties is im-pressive. When you ask about a county, she will give you the breakdown of all her con-tacts: who would give me straight answers and who has the juicy county political/social gossip. She has also been a great mentor to those in the field. I am pretty sure she has walked every one of us through our first town halls, roundtables and site visits. She was someone you could rely on to give you feedback and let you know if you were on the right path.

The final comment from a team member: I would just say that every time I have ever gone into constituent meetings with a community leader or elected official that has worked with Amy, no matter the political party, they absolutely love her. She has done so much for the Southern Oregon communities. John and humanly worked in-credibly hard over the last decade plus to help rural Oregonians. She is funny, kind, and blue—always tells you like it is. I can not reiterate enough how imperative her mentorship has been. She is a wealth of knowledge and experience that can’t be re-placed.

I certainly could not have said it better, so I appreciate the team members who contributed those thoughts.

On behalf of myself and the entire team, thank you, Amy Amrhein, for all you have done for our team, for all you have done for the State, and for all you have done for so many constituents, working on so many complex and difficult issues. You are going to be deeply missed by the entire team but by me most of all. It is the wish of the entire team that you will have a joyous, healthy retirement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Young nomination? 

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I did for the year and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient sec-ond.

The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted yea.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber de-siring to vote?
The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander  Gardner  Peters
Balduin  Gillibrand  Portman
Barrosco  Graham  Reed
Bennet  Grassley  Risch
Blackburn  Hassan  Roberts
Blunt  Hawley  Romney
Booher  Heinrich  Rosen
Boozman  Hirono  Rounds
Brown  Hutton  Rubio
Brown  Hyde-Smith  Sasse
Burr  Inhofe  Schatz
Cainwell  Jones  Scott (FL)
Cardin  Kaine  Scott (IA)
Casper  Kennedy  Shaheen
Carter  King  Shelby
Cassidy  Klobuchar  Sinema
Collins  Lancaster  Smith
Coons  Leahy  Stabenow
Cornyn  Lee  Sullivan
Cortez Masto  Lesko  Tester
Cotton  Manchin  Thune
Cramer  Markey  Tillis
Crapo  McConnell  Toomey
Cruz  McSally  Udall
Daines  Menendez  Van Hollen
Duckworth  Merkley  Warner
Durbin  Markowski  Warner
Emt  Murphy  Whitehouse
Ernst  Murkowski  Wicker
Feinstein  Paul  Wyden
Fischer  Perdue  Young

NAYS—2

Blumenthal  Schum  NOT VOTING—5
Capito  Johnson  Sanders
Harris  Messrs  Not voting

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021, AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337, a bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to devastate our public health and our economy, it is far past time that we reach agreement on another relief package that is so desperately needed. It will require good-faith negotiations on both sides of the aisle, not just saying no and turning the tragedy of 200,000 COVID deaths into a partisan political issue.

For my part, I believe there should be nine elements in the bill. First, there should be an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, known as PPP. This is a program that I crafted with Senators MARCO RUBIO, JEANNE SHAHEEN, and BEN CARDIN to provide forgivable loans to our small businesses so that they could pay their employees.

I am pleased to report that, in my State, 28,000 small businesses—that is nearly three out of four of our small businesses—have taken advantage of $2.3 billion in forgivable loans, sustaining 1.6 million jobs. We know that PPP has made a difference. Now we need to do a second round of PPP for the hardest hit businesses, those for whom the first PPP loan was the lifeline but they need additional help.

So we have set a revenue test such that, if your revenue is 35 percent below what it was in an equivalent quarter last year, you would qualify for another PPP loan. And in addition, those who have never received a first PPP loan could apply under the initial rules. This would make a difference in keeping our small businesses afloat, particularly those in the tourism industry that have been so hard hit, and ensuring that their employees will still have jobs.

Second, we need to provide aid to our schools. I have talked to superintendents all over the State of Maine, and I have visited schools in Hollis and Houlton. I have seen firsthand the enormous investments they have had to make in order to reopen the schools safely or adapt to a hybrid model, depending on where the location is and the incidence of COVID–19.

In one school that I visited, they have replaced all of the round tables around which the elementary schoolchildren would usually be working with desks lined up. It reminds me of when I went to elementary school because that was the style of teaching back then.

They are sanitizing and deep-cleaning the schools. They are trying to figure out what to do with the little toys that are used to teach children how to count: How do they sanitize them? Or do they get each child his or her own set of toys to place in individual bins? They are cutting new doors into the nurse’s office so that no longer will ill children or staffers have to go through the front office. They are putting up plexiglass shields. They are adding additional bus routes in order to safely separate the children.

These changes cost a lot of money, and it is one reason why, in addition to providing direct aid to our schools, we need to provide assistance to our States, our counties, and our communities.

I have talked to city and town managers all over the State of Maine. They did not receive much from the initial allocation of funding that went to the States, and they need help now.

Let me give you an example. The city of Auburn has had to freeze six vacant positions because of expected revenue losses. That is two firefighters, a police officer, and three public works employees. These cuts come as the city of Auburn has spent $200,000 in new expenses responding to the virus.

I have yet to talk to a city or a town manager who is not experiencing the need due to similar cuts and who experienced delayed or canceled public works projects, like paving local roads. That has a trickle-down effect. It affects the contractor and his or her employees, who will no longer have that work. It affects their suppliers from whom the concrete or the tar is no longer going to be purchased.

This is why I feel strongly that the bipartisan SMART Act, which I worked on with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, led by Senator CASSIDY and Senator MENENDEZ, needs to be passed. We can negotiate exactly how much money and exactly to whom it should go, but it is essential that aid go to the community level.

Fourth, we need to help our airlines. Otherwise, come October 1—just right around the corner—we are going to see massive layoffs. We are talking about between 80,000 and 100,000 layoffs of airline employees and also related jobs in airports, such as concessionaires. It will also lead to canceled service, if there are no longer officers for airplanes and ground crews. We are going to lose airline service to communities all over this country.

We need not to forget the motor coach industry, which few people are talking about. They have been hurt by the cancelation of everything from school sports to tours. We need to help them survive this period of economic struggle. Senator JACK REED and I have introduced a bill with more than 40 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle that would provide that assistance.

No. 6, we need to continue investing in our economy. That is key in helping our economy and safely housing people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

I am excited by the new Abbott Labs test, which will cost only $5 and give a result in 15 minutes. I take particular pride because Abbott Labs has a large facility in my State, and they are expanding from Scarborough to Westbrook in order to produce these tests more rapidly.

No. 7, we need to provide limited but important liability protections to our frontline hospital workers, to our small businesses, and to our schools and colleges.

One restaurant owner put it this way to me. He said: Susan, what if I get sued despite taking every precaution, following the CDC guidelines, but a customer comes in, later develops the coronavirus, and sues me, saying, I think I got it in that restaurant. Well, I am pretty sure that he didn’t, but I still have to pay to defend that lawsuit?

Clearly we should not protect anyone who is guilty of gross negligence, but
that is not what we are talking about here.

No. 8, we need to provide a reasonable Federal unemployment insurance supplement to help struggling families during this difficult time when so many lost jobs through no fault of their own, but we need to be sure that we are not creating a disincentive to return to work when jobs reopen. That is why I like the approach of either having an 80-percent replacement of the pre-job-loss wage or figuring in a way that provides an 80 percent replacement. That is far higher than the normal wage replacement under our State systems, but these are extraordinary times.

No. 9, we need an emergency appropriation for the U.S. Postal Service. Otherwise, I am worried that the Postal Service will not be able to meet its payroll starting the second quarter of next year. Think of the costs the Postal Service has incurred. It has had to retrofit every post office, every processing center in this country, as well as provide protective gear to its postal employees who are both essential and frontline workers.

Those are the elements that I believe should be part of the coronavirus package. While there are disagreements on perhaps three of the nine elements that I have suggested, by and large, there is agreement on seven of the elements. There may be disputes about exactly how much money should be appropriated, but we can work those disputes out, just as we do in the appropriations process.

We simply cannot wait and do nothing and just hope for the best. Hope is not an effective strategy when it comes to dealing with this persistent pandemic. The American people have demonstrated resilience, courage, and compassion during this crisis, but they need our additional help.

I hope that next week we will put aside the partisan bickering, the “just say no” approach that we have seen, unfortunately, from the Democratic leader, and that we will come together not as Democrats and Republicans and Independents but as Americans to do what our country needs done right now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Scott of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a daughter of New York and an American giant. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an icon, a legend, and a role model for so many people, myself included. We may never see a jurist with her kind of courage again in our lifetimes.

The daughter of an immigrant furrier and Garment District bookkeeper, born and raised in Brooklyn, she pushed back against every expectation and discrimination from birth. Her parents were educators, her mentors, and they prepared her and she rose to the bench of the highest Court in the land. She was a brilliant legal mind, an unparalleled jurist, an opera fan, fearless dissenter, and the “Notorious RBG.”

Justice Ginsburg spent her whole life fighting against injustices, those she faced personally and those she could not abide in society. When Ruth Bader Ginsburg went to law school, she was one of just 9 women in her class of 500. She graduated at the top of her class but was rejected by law firm after law firm because she was a woman and because she was a mother. Undaunted, she found a different path to success.

She educated generations of law students at Rutgers and Columbia and spent her time outside the classroom at the ACLU, becoming an architect of the plan to eradicate gender discrimination. One strategically chosen case at a time, she proved to a male-dominated legal system that discrimination on the basis of sex is real. She was a trailblazer. She took herself to places that few women had ever been, and she took the law to places it had never been.

She stood for all of us. She stood against discrimination in all its forms. She was someone who fundamentally understood the gifts that people have to give to this country regardless of one’s sex, one’s gender orientation, one’s race, or one’s background.

She knew that the words etched in stone above the entrance of the Supreme Court—“Equal Justice Under Law”—were still a goal, not a given, and she fought to make them a reality every day of her life.

As has been noted, in the Jewish tradition, only those of great righteousness die on Rosh Hashanah—because God determined that they were needed during the year. Justice Ginsburg was truly someone of great righteousness, and at the very end, she left us with one final message: “My most fervent wish is that I not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

She asked us to respect the right of the American people to be heard, but within just hours of her passing, that wish was denied by Members of this body.

The hypocrisy of my colleagues is breathtaking. The same Members rushing this process are the very same ones who denied Merrick Garland hearings because his nomination was supposedly too close to an election. He was nominated in March. It is nearly October. This election is not just close. It is already happening. People across the country are casting their ballots. Yet this is more than mere tantrum hypocrisy. Let’s look at what is really at stake.

The first case that will be argued in November will decide if 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions will continue to have access to affordable healthcare. Think about that. My Republican colleagues are rushing through the confirmation of a judge in our country's history that 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions will see their premiums go up or have their healthcare ripped away entirely. That would be inhumane at any time, but in the middle of a pandemic, it truly unんでいる.

They are rushing to vote on a Justice who will decide the fate of more than 640,000 DACA recipients who have known no other home, no other country, but this one.

They seek to confirm a judge who will revoke the rights of 50 percent of the population to make decisions about their own bodies and their reproductive healthcare.

This new judge could very well overturn recently decided cases that have finally granted same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry the persons whom they love.

This new judge will likely decide on the Nation’s ability to conduct a fair and accurate census and the right of every person in this country to have equal representation under the law.

It is clear to me why our colleagues are rushing this. They fear that the American people simply don’t agree with their views. They fear that this is their last chance to impose an ultra-conservative view on our country, in which women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, and immigrants’ rights take a back seat to corporate interests and discrimination. That is not what the American people want. They should get the chance to have their say. Their ability to access healthcare, to marry, to live in this country, and to be represented fairly and fully by this government is on the line. Their rights hang in the balance.

The actions of my colleagues deny the people a voice. What does that say about this Chamber? What does it say about our democracy?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENDING THE UNDERTAKING SPAM, SPYWARE, AND FRAUD ENFORCEMENT WITH ENFORCEMENT BEYOND BORDERS ACT OF 2006

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4779 and that
the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4779) to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, this bill, H.R. 4779, "To extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006," would reauthorize the U.S. SAFE WEB Act, which is an important tool for the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and take action against the scams, robocalls, and fraud that may span international borders. It would save consumers the hard work of needlessly choosing to lose financial pain, and emotional travails of fraud, scams, and robocalls that may have international implications and impacts.

The SAFE WEB Act has been reauthorized on a bipartisan basis over many years. I am pleased to cooperate and collaborate with Senator MORAN of Kansas, who is a great partner in consumer protection and this effort and is the chairman of the subcommittee on which I am the ranking member.

We all know that fraud spawned by foreign criminal organizations, as well as domestic ones, has caused significant harm to consumers here. Therefore, this measure will provide the tools that are essential to the FTC in protecting consumers and in enforcing the law.

I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4779) was passed.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, 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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the motion of Mr. LEAHY. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in a few moments we are going to vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 8337, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 and Other Extensions Act of 2020.

I will speak a little bit about what is in there, but I will urge all Members to vote aye.

The bill provides funding for the government through December 11 at fiscal year 2020 funding levels. It will be under the same terms and conditions contained in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations laws. These were the laws that Chairman SHELDY and I brought to the floor and have been voted on.

It includes several authorization matters to extend programs that otherwise would expire, including some important health and veteran programs.

So as vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I support the bill, but I am disappointed that it is needed at all.

As I have said many times, we had ample—ample time in the Senate to complete our work and pass all 12 a.s. But we didn’t mark up a single one. In June, July, we could have passed all 12 of them, but the majority leader wouldn’t even bring up a single one of them.

Apparently, he is more interested in confirming extreme rightwing judges than moving legislation to address the needs of the American people, including appropriations bills or critical legislation to combat the COVID virus and its impact on families and the economy.

I chuckle, too, in a way ruefully because, of course, my friends on the other side—especially if there is a Democratic administration—say they must follow the Thurman rule, named after their revered former President pro tempore from the Republican side, that you cannot have any confirmations after the first of July. But of course, they have forgotten their own Republican rule when they have a Republican President. I will know the facts on that, but I think what the American people have to understand is that because of the time we spent on that, because of the refusal to even allow 1—even 1—of the 12 appropriations bills to come up for a vote and allow everybody to either vote for it or against it—and with Republicans having a majority, if they didn’t like anything in it, they could vote it down. But saying that, no, we want to talk about it, but we are kind of afraid to actually vote on it—I don’t know why we are afraid to vote. That is what we get elected to do.

I have cast over 16,000 votes in this body. Actually, I was told today that is more than all but 1 of the nearly 2,000 Senators who have served here, and that is just the votes cast for appropriations. But what we have done is we have conceded we can’t do our most basic job of completing appropriations bills on time, and in doing that, we have failed to address an unprecedented health and economic crisis for months.

Last week more than 870,000 Americans filed for unemployment benefits for the first time. It is not 870,000 Americans who have filed in the past; this is 870,000 Americans filing for unemployment benefits for the first time. That is because of this pandemic.

Kitchen cabinets across the country are bare as families struggle without schools the resources to eat. Some states do not have enough resources to teach our children at home or protect them inside the classroom.

This is infuriating. I think Senator SHELDY and I could have gotten those 12 bills out of the way. If so, you would have had enough Republicans to vote for it; some would vote against it. But we were ready to vote back in June and July. In the meantime, we now have 200,000 Americans who have died, and we have yet to vote.

I am afraid that what the President wants to do—and my friends on the Republican side—is cast aside the desperate needs of the American people in favor of government on autopilot.

Apparently, right now, they are more concerned about the 2022 election and protecting their seats than the health and safety of the American people and are doing the most basic job of Congress. It is that simple.

I will have more to say about the continuing resolution in the upcoming days as we move forward toward final passage. But the last thing our country needs is a government shutdown in the middle of a global pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis.

I regret that leaders who would not allow us to vote on these appropriations bills because I am convinced we would have had enough Republicans and Democrats who would have come together and passed all 12 of them if we had been allowed to vote, even though it means that some would have to cast difficult votes, but that is what we are here for.

For this one, while it is far from perfect, I will urge all Members to vote aye on the motion to proceed.

Mr. President, I see my distinguished colleague on the floor is ready to speak, so I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3983

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, we are 40 days today from a general election—40 days—40 days until the American people make their choice, or at least that is the idea.

But there are a group of people who seem intent on influencing the people’s choice, on manipulating it, on shaping it according to their own preferences. I am not talking about China or Russia or Iran; I am talking about a group of corporations—the most powerful corporations in the history of this Nation, the most powerful corporations in the history of the world. I am talking about being Big Tech.

We know who they are. They run the giant digital platforms, the places where Americans communicate and share their opinions. But those platforms are more than that. They are more than places to talk or buy things. Facebook and Google, Twitter and
Instagram and YouTube—these are the platforms that control more and more of our daily lives.

And, yes, I said “control.” These platforms control our social communication, the way that we talk to each other, when and how, where, and on what topic. They control what news we read or even what news we see.

They control more and more journalism in America, right down to what is in news articles and how the headlines are written.

They control how elected officials communicate with their constituents, when they can run advertisements, what their messages can say and can’t.

And they want to control us. Big Tech platforms relentlessly spy on their customers—you and me. They track us around the web. They monitor our every move online and even when we are offline.

They track our location and whether we are riding a bike or on the street. They track the websites that we visit and when. They track the things that we buy. They track the videos that we watch. They track what our children are doing. They track everything—all with the purpose of getting data on each one of us to influence us, to shape our preferences and opinions and viewpoints.

This is enormous power—unheard of power—and the Big Tech platforms are intent on using it. They are intent on using it today.

Let’s just cut to the chase: The Big Tech platforms are owned and operated by woke capitalists. They are leftists. They are liberals. They are not conservatives. They are no friend to conservatives. They are liberals. They are not conservatives.

The platforms control more and more journalism in America, right down to what is in news articles and how the headlines are written.

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And they want to control us. Big Tech platforms relentlessly spy on their customers—you and me. They track us around the web. They monitor our every move online and even when we are offline.

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This is enormous power—unheard of power—and the Big Tech platforms are intent on using it. They are intent on using it today.

Now they are trying to use their power to shape the outcome of an election. For months, the tech platforms have been engaging in escalating acts of censorship—political censorship—aimed at conservatives.

They have censored the President of the United States. They have banned pro-life groups from their sites. They have tried to silence independent conservative journalists like the Federalist.

Now, the censorship is never against news and information and data to use their power in this way, if they don’t agree with conservatives. They don’t like conservatives. They don’t get threatened and bullied or discriminated against. Liberal news sites, for example, have tried to silence independent conservatives—wrote because as we thought about the formulation of technology policy, our big concern was for the little guy, for the person who didn’t have power, the person who didn’t have clout.

We were picking up accounts that if they were just trying to come out with their invention—might be something they put up on a website or a blog—they could be held personally liable for making the judgment on whether or for what their sites that they had no idea about.

So we said: We can’t do that to the little guy. We can’t strip them of their voice.

One way, my concern about the little guy that led to the passage of this law is something I continue to focus on today.

This law is hugely important to movements like Me Too and Black Lives Matter because it gives Americans the opportunity to see the messages they want to get out. We all see the videos. Frankly, establishment media wouldn’t even run a lot of it because they would be sued.

So the original interest in this was more to make sure that the little guy had a chance to be heard. That is the interest today. That is what the Senator from Missouri wants to throw in the trash can. That is No. 1.

No. 2, the effect of what the Senator from Missouri wants to do—and for colleagues who have just come in, I just learned about this 5 minutes before the Senator from Missouri came to the floor. The net effect of this is that Donald Trump can force social media—and he’s already working the refs—to print his lies.

The thing that concerned me right at the outset was the lies about vote-by-mail. He wanted to force Twitter to print his lies about vote-by-mail. That, too, is something that we sought to constrain in the bipartisan law. And many people think the 26 words really began a policy of empowering the little guy to be heard.

Now, I am going to wrap up with just one point. Colleagues, the Senator from Missouri talks about how he wants to take on Big Tech. That is his concern. Let’s take on Big Tech.

If you want to take on Big Tech, you can go on my privacy bill. It is called the Mind Your Own Business Act. It is the toughest bill on the table with respect to Big Tech. It means that if an executive, a CEO, of one of the big companies, lies and lies repeatedly, they could be held personally liable, including the prospect of prison time.

If the Senator from Missouri is serious about taking on Big Tech, I have a bill to do it. That is not what the interest is here. This is all about Donald Trump wanting to force social media to carry his political water and to print his lies.

For that reason—and I would have more to say had I been given some semblance of a courtesy to be able to prepare remarks on this, I would speak in more detail, but for those reasons, at least those three, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri.
Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I will just say to my friend, the Democratic Senator describes a world that just doesn’t exist. He says Section 230 protects the little guy? Section 230 protects the most powerful corporations in the history of the world. Google and Facebook, the little guy. Instagram and Twitter aren’t the little guy.

Do you know who is left vulnerable by those mega corporations? The people who don’t have a voice. The people who, when they get deplatformed, don’t have an option. If you are silenced by Google or Facebook or Twitter, what is your option? None. Nothing. You can’t be heard. You can’t go to court. You can’t do anything.

Every American should have the right, if they are unfairly discriminated against because of their political views, to at least be heard in court.

Section 230, as it exists today and as it is currently being applied, protects the most powerful corporations. It protects and has protected human traffickers. It protects some of the worst abuses of free speech in our society. That is why I will continue to fight to have it reformed and continue to fight to give the American people a voice. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, mercifully, I know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. COTTON. 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 West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHN-SON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 195 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Alexander
Balduin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booker
Boozman
Braun
Brown
Burr
Canwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Collins
Coombs
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Eksi
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Gardner
NAYS—2
Cruz
Paul
Cassidy
Harris
Moran
Johnson

The motion was agreed to.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8337) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2663

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2663.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCON- NELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2663.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2664 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2663

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCON- NELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2664 to amendment 2663.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I seek a cloture motion to the desk for the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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 Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8377, a bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.


Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

(The remarks of Mr. Enzi, Mr. Carpenter, and Mr. Barrasso pertaining to the introduction of S. 4684 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. ENZI. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

REAFFIRMING THE SENATE’S COMMITMENT TO THE ORDELY AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

Mr. MANKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 718, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 718) reaffirming the Senate’s commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. MANKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 718) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Senate” (Submittal of Bills and Joint Resolutions).

Mr. MANKIN. Mr. President, I would like to speak to the resolution.

It is a shame that we have to come and reaffirm our commitment to our country, to our Constitution, and who we are as a people and how we became the greatest country on Earth and the freedoms we all take for granted many, many times.

Sometimes we hear things that challenge that. We heard that yesterday, and we were very concerned about that.

As of today, my friend and colleague from Indiana, Senator Braun, basically wanted to reaffirm our commitment to the Pledge of Allegiance, which is something we should do every day—our Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and to our great country.

What we are doing with this resolution is basically saying that the bedrock of democracy is the orderly and peaceful transfer of power when a President transitions out. This should not be a question. There should not ever be one iota of interruption whatsoever at that peaceful demonstration. I remember when it was my turn to be defeated, it was the race between Senator John Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon. It was very, very close. Everyone was on pins and needles, but there was an orderly transfer. Richard Nixon conceded, and to take this out further, he did a peaceful and orderly transfer, and away he went.

Then you had Al Gore—Senator Al Gore at that time, former Vice President Al Gore—and George W. Bush in 2000. We know how that turned out with the chads and all the hanging chads and the consternation of not knowing for so long. Then, basically, for the sake of our country, he did the right thing. Again, we expect that to be done.

We are in the most difficult times right now, and for the President to even address the subject of maybe not knowing if he would accept or not is beyond all of our comprehension that could ever happen in America, that it could ever happen in the discourse and the will of the voters, the verification of the votes and being able to protect the ballot box. We have come too long in our country, and we continue to be challenged.

I believe that to have the leader of the free world talk as if we are an autocracy—authoritarian versus a democracy—is something that alarmed me, along with colleagues on both sides of this aisle. Everyone, I think, is alarmed with that.

What we did is affirm who we are in the Senate and what we believe in. The resolution is very clear. All it says is that we affirm as the Senate our commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States and intend that there should be no disruptions by the President or any person in power to overturn the will of the people of the United States. It is really who we are.

Mr. President, it is what you defended, what you fought for, why you entered the service. I am so proud of all the people who have served. Thank you for your service, Mr. President. Thank you to all the people in West Virginia, the most patriotic people in the world. I have said this many times. I am so proud of my State. We have more veterans per capita than most any State; shed more blood, lost more lives for the cause of freedom than any State. We never failed to answer the call. We have done the heavy lifting. Our people worked hard, includ-

ing my grandfather and all my relatives. We mined the coal that made the steel that built the guns and ships and the factories and defended our country and our great Nation. We are very proud of all that.

This is not who we are. This is not who we are, and we must speak loudly. This is not politics. This is not Republican or Democrat—make no mistake. This is basically saying that if you believe—for the sake of the Good Lord and all we believe in and our country, this is about the House of Representatives and this democracy. That is all this is about—maintaining. We will defend that.

Today, we have just reaffirmed our commitment to the orderly transition of power by the President of the United States, whoever that should be, whenever that might happen; that they must have an orderly transfer that we will all defend and uphold. That is what we affirmed today.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity, and I thank all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Thank you for standing true for who we are and what we believe in and what we have committed ourselves to.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KAINIE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mr. KAINIE. Mr. President, I want to rise just briefly to pay tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

I saw a statement about her in the aftermath of her passing that said she probably go down in history as one of the greatest women lawyers in the history of the United States. I don’t think that does her justice. I want to take the floor to say that Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in my view, will probably go down in history as one of the top three judges and lawyers ever in the history of the United States, male or female. I want to describe why. Before I do, I just want to notice the outpouring of support for her.

In the 4 days after she passed, from Friday night until Tuesday night, my office received 37,000 pieces of correspondence about Justice Ginsburg, praising her, lifting her up as a role model, expressing concern about what the Court would be without her. In my 8 years in the Senate, I have never seen an outpouring of support for an individual like that. That is just an example of how highly we hold her in regard.

Justice Ginsburg is well known and particularly well known in Virginia. One of the opinions she authored that I have never let go of recent, was an opinion that ruled that a public university—the Virginia Military Institute—could not deny access to women...
students. That was a very controversial case in Virginia. Justice Ginsburg’s opinion was courteous and recognized the great virtue of VMI as an institution but held up its many virtues and values and said women students at this public university should be able to attend as well.

Justice Ginsburg as a Justice has left her mark on our society in such an amazing way. I want to talk about Ruth Bader Ginsburg for a second because I assume that if Ruth Bader Ginsburg had never been on the Supreme Court, she would have earned her way into one of the greatest American lawyers or jurists of all time, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

It was a Virginian who wrote into the Declaration of Independence the words that are maybe among some of the most known words in the English language: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” Those words are so powerful. They put us on the road to equality in our country in equality and principle but had ambiguity wrapped up in them.

Jefferson, although he believed in equality, knew and was deeply troubled by the fact that slaves and other even freed slaves and vagrants among the free were not treated equally. Jefferson wasn’t particularly troubled by the fact that women were not treated equally at that time. He had an ability to see what the principle should be but not necessarily to apply it to his own life, which is, frankly, a weakness that I think we all have suffered from during our life at times, but at least he set out the right principle and said that it applied to men.

I think you can look at the history of our country as a North Star was set for us in 1776, and over time, we sort of progressively realized, wow, that is what equality means. We have to orient by the star of equality and never get fully there because we are imperfect. When we orient by the star of equality, we can orient by the star of the fact that we are imperfect. When we orient by it, we do pretty well.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, the Constitution was dramatically rewritten with the addition of the 13th Amendment, banning slavery; the 14th Amendment, creating due process and equal protection of the laws; and the 15th Amendment, blocking limitations of voting based on race.

I want to talk for a minute the 14th Amendment, creating due process and equal protection of the laws—let me tell you about one of the first cases that came to the Supreme Court.

A woman by the name of Myra Bradwell, living in Illinois, wanted to be licensed to practice law. She wanted to be a lawyer, just like Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Illinois would not allow her to practice law because she was a woman. She said: Wait a minute. We have a 14th Amendment, and it guarantees me the privileges and immunities of being a U.S. citizen, guarantees me equal protection of the laws.

She took her case all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court said: Wait a minute. Women are people. Women are entitled to equality. When that was passed by Congress and ratified by States in 1870, the Constitution fundamentally changed. One of the fascinating things is, as soon as the 14th Amendment with this particular clause in it guaranteeing equal protection of the laws—let me tell you about one of the first cases that came to the Supreme Court.

When that was passed by Congress and ratified by States in 1870, the Constitution fundamentally changed. One of the fascinating things is, as soon as the 14th Amendment, creating due process and equal protection of the laws—let me tell you about one of the first cases that came to the Supreme Court.

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When did the Supreme Court change that ruling? It is still kind of shocking to me that it was not until 1971—100 years later, in a case called Reed v. Reed, a case that came out of the State court system in Idaho—that Chief Justice Warren Burger, for a unanimous Court, said: Wait a minute. The 14th Amendment says all persons are entitled to the equal protection of the laws. Guess what. That applies to women.

How did the Court in 1871 could have read those words and said it didn’t apply to women is kind of hard to imagine, but it should make us humble because it should suggest that even educated, smart people could get things wrong.

Yet, 100 years later, in 1971, there was Reed v. Reed, which was a technical, quirky case about Idaho law that preferred men over women to be executors of estates so that, if there were two with equal claims in terms of being a relation of somebody who died intestate, they would prefer a man over a woman. That was a quirky, technical case that came to the Supreme Court. After 101 years, following the passage of the 14th Amendment, the Supreme Court said: Wait a minute. Women are citizens. Women are people. Women are entitled to equality.

Who wrote the brief in that case?

The brief in that case was written by a talented, young lawyer who had been one of nine in her class at Harvard Law School, who had often been told she couldn’t do this or she couldn’t do that. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a quirkily named person who had a unique ability to do jobs along the way. The brief in that case was written by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In very, very characteristic humility, she was the brains behind the case, but she allowed the case to be argued in the Supreme Court by the Idaho attorney who was very close to Mrs. Reed, who was pursuing the appeal in the Supreme Court.

When Reed v. Reed was decided, it was an earthquake. After 100 years, to finally say that, of course, women are just as much a human being, they can make claims under the 14th Amendment, it was an earthquake, and it affected all aspects of American law.

Immediately after Reed v. Reed, Congress went through the entire United States and passed a law that gave every woman equal protection of the laws. Guess what. That applies to women.

That is the only point that I really want to talk about. That is one of the many sparks that heated women back in property and in civil matters—laws that, for example, said that a married woman, because of being married, couldn’t prosecute a rape charge against her husband or even a divorce.
but also the American citizens understand that equal protection of the laws applies to women just like they apply to men would have entitled her to have been viewed as one of the most impactful lawyers of all time. 

I would put her up with John Marshall, the first great Chief Justice of the Court, who really had to form so many of the doctrines that we now sort of take for granted about our American jurisprudence, and Thurgood Marshall, who, in many ways, carried the same fight. And to make us realize that it applied to people regardless of the color of their skin and then served on the Supreme Court. They are the two lawyers of whom I think when I think of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and I am not sure that anyone else is in the same class with her other than those two.

It is a sad time when someone of such magnitude passes, but I can tell from the 37,000 pieces of correspondence that my daughter received in the first 4 days after she left that, if you measure a life not by the day that it ends but by the influence that it has and the example that it sets, it is also a time in which we can just admire, be in awe of, and celebrate the accomplishments of a wonderful American I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, last Friday, as the Jewish New Year began, Rosh Hashanah, our Nation lost a titan of justice and an unmatched force for good—Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. 

According to Jewish tradition, a person who dies on Rosh Hashanah is a tzaddik—a person of great righteousness. Justice Ginsburg, who was only the seventh Jewish Supreme Court Justice and the first female Jewish Justice, was, indeed, righteous.

And Jill, my wife, were proud to call Ruth a friend, and like all Santa Feans, we are proud that Ruth graced our city at the Santa Fe Opera every summer. She loved New Mexico, and New Mexico loves her. Our hearts are with Justice Ginsburg’s family.

You shared a great national treasure with all of us, and we are eternally grateful.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was 1 of only 12 women who graduated from Columbia Law School in 1959. With a young child in tow, she tied for first in her class. Talk about a trailblazer. Indeed, RBG, as she is so affectionately called, blazed so many trails—too many to list. She was the first woman to serve on two major law reviews and one of the first female law professors in the Nation. She cofounded the first law journal on women’s rights, and coauthored the first casebook on gender discrimination.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg had to push open those doors because no one opened them for her. She was no stranger to gender discrimination. She was denied the right to marry her husband of the pregnancy with her first child. She was re fused a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship because she was a woman. She was also paid less than her male counterparts as a law professor.

Always driven toward justice, RBG became the leading legal mind behind incrementally dismantling gender discrimination laws in the United States. She spearheaded the strategy to apply the 14th Amendment—requiring equal protection under the law—to women, and she won in the Supreme Court five times. Her victories helped to take down the mass of legal structures relegate women to second-class status. She accomplished what was nearly impossible by her inclusion in the ruling of “We the People,” and her quest for justice never ended.

As a jurist, she authored groundbreaking opinions—striking down strict requirements on abortion clinics that were designed to put them out of business, establishing the right of persons with mental illness to be treated in the community instead of in institutions, and opening up the Virginia Military Institute to female cadets, which, I think, Senator KAINE talked about a little bit earlier.

She was also as well known for her forceful dissents. “I dissent” has become a rallying cry against an activist conservative Court.

In 2013, when the Court struck down the pre-clearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act, Justice Ginsburg declared, “‘Hubris’ is a fit word for today’s demolition of the VRA.” She observed that striking down voting protections because they worked too well was like “throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.”

Justice Ginsburg was brilliant, determined, and courageous.

Now, as her long and well-lived life has come to an end and as the Nation mourns, it is only fitting that she continue making firsts—as the first woman to lie in state in the Capitol, All of us—women and men alike—owe a debt of gratitude to Justice Ginsburg and to her righteous and unwavering commitment to justice and equality under the law.

As you have now heard many times, Justice Ginsburg’s last words to the American public were “My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new President is installed.”

Yet, mere weeks after the Supreme Court announced Justice Ginsburg’s passing, while the Nation was in mourning, Leader MC CON NELL announced he would replace her before the current Presidency ends.

Let me say this: While my heart is broken, my soul is on fire.

Not only are Senate Republicans disregarding Justice Ginsburg’s last request, they are turning their back on the principle that they claimed was pure just 4 years ago.

In February 2016, Justice Scalia passed away a full 9 months before a Presidential election. At that time, the majority leader refused to hold hearings on President Obama’s highly qualified nominee, proclaiming:

The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.

Those words meant nothing. They were deceitful tricks in pursuit of raw power, and they have brought shame upon this body.

Election day is only 40 days away, but it is more accurate to say that the election ends in 40 days, because the election is actually underway today. Voters are already voting in 29 States. More than half of the States are voting. Tens of millions of Americans will cast their votes before election day.

The leader’s vow to vote to replace Justice Ginsburg is a slap in the face to these voters and runs roughshod over the Constitution.

Senator MCCONNELL is moving at lightning speed to steal the second Supreme Court seat because he knows this President faces an uncertain electoral future. He is scared to let the American people, as he put it, “have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice.”

This hypocrisy is only matched by the utter disdain for American voters—disdain for their intelligence, disdain for their will.

But the real scandal will be what this means to the American people. On November 10, 7 days after election day, the Supreme Court will hear argument on the legality of the Affordable Care Act, or what many call the ACA. After failing to repeal the ACA in Congress, now the Republicans are trying to destroy it in the courts, and they are rushing to fill this vacancy with a judge who will do that work for them.

The Trump administration is standing with 20 Republican Governors and attorneys general who are asking the Supreme Court to strike down the ACA. Republicans are trying to take away Americans’ healthcare in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century. It is unforgivable.

By overwhelming numbers, the American people support the ACA. Before the ACA, insurance companies could deny healthcare insurance to people with preexisting conditions. Up to 129 million Americans under age 65 have preexisting conditions. The millions of people who have been infected by COVID–19 now have a preexisting condition for the rest of their lives. In my home State of New Mexico, more than 840,000 people live with a preexisting condition. Because of the ACA, 21 million more Americans have healthcare insurance, millions more have Medicaid expansion. This includes hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans. 
When the ACA was challenged years ago, the Supreme Court upheld it by a 5-to-4 vote. We are one vote away from the decimation of our healthcare rights at a time when nearly 7 million Americans have contracted COVID–19.

The threat is not only to the ACA but also to our reproductive healthcare, our environmental protections, and what is left of our campaign finance limits. So we know why they are moving at a record pace to fill this seat.

But while the President and the majority leader want to rush through a lifetime Justice in just a few weeks, millions of Americans are out of work. Small businesses are closing their doors. Schools can’t reopen safely. Parents are burning the candle at both ends, working and caring for kids at home. State, local, and Tribal governments can’t meet budgets for essential services.

The American people desperately need another relief package, but the Senate Republicans and the President don’t think there is any urgency. Leader McConnell said that himself. According to the President, COVID–19 “affects virtually nobody.” The President said that—“affects virtually nobody.”

This virus that “affects virtually nobody” is the third leading cause of death in the United States, has taken more lives in 8 short months than the Vietnam and Middle East wars combined, and has sent our economy into a nosedive not seen since the Great Depression.

We talk a lot about priorities here in the Senate. Right now you are seeing Senate Republican priorities in stark relief. They will rush a lifetime Supreme Court pick in weeks—violating every principle they established themselves to please their far-right donors. But they will neglect relief for you—for struggling families, for people out of work, for people sick and dying—for months.

Finally, we cannot ignore the fact that the President has explicitly said he wants to fill this vacancy to help decide the 2020 election in his favor. He has repeatedly lied that absentee ballots, votes from Democratic areas, or votes that are tabulated after election day are somehow fraudulent.

And as an authoritarian, he does not even try to correct himself when his lies are debunked. Instead, he openly admits he wants the Supreme Court to decide the election by disqualifying votes he does not like and even refuses to commit to a peaceful transfer of power.

The Senate should not become an accomplice to this corrupt scheme that threatens the future of our democracy, and the Senate Republican party should condemn the President’s refusal to commit to give up power peacefully.

I would note that several of my Republican friends have stood up and have said that there should be a peaceful transition of power, and I applaud them for that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McConnenell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—MOTIONS TO RECONSIDER

Mr. McConnenell. 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 actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE JOURNAL

Mr. McConnenell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McConnenell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

RECOGNIZING GOLD SHAW FARM

Mr. Leahy. Mr. President, agriculture has always been at the heart of Vermont’s economy. For generations, families across Vermont have made a living through tilling our rocky soil and raising livestock on our hillsides. Farming in Vermont has always been a challenging yet very rewarding way of life. Now more than ever, it is clear to see the obstacles faced by farmers. I would like to take a moment to recognize Gold Shaw Farm, a farm founded by a husband and wife team in northeastern Vermont. Morgan and Allison Gold, the owners of Gold Shaw Farm, have found a very interesting way to meet these challenges, supplementing their agricultural income, adapt their practices, and share their work with the world.

Morgan and Allison Gold moved to Peacham, VT, and established their farm in 2016. On their 150-acre plot, the Golds raise chickens, geese, ducks, and sheep and cultivate a variety of vegetables and berries. Soon after they started farming, the Golds began filming their daily activities and posting them on YouTube. The farm may be small, but over the years, Gold Shaw Farm has built a loyal and devoted fan base that tune in regularly to watch as Morgan and Allison collect eggs, chase ducks, and play with their dog, Toby.

Some of the farm’s fans have even driven all the way to Peacham to buy eggs and visit the farm. With the help of their growing audience, the Golds hope to expand their farm into a larger sustainable operation. Starting and maintaining a farm is a challenging work, but the Golds’ motivated, we see innovative and creative ways to not only document farming experiences, but share those experiences with the world and hopefully inspire a new generation of farmers. I look forward to tuning in to watch their progress.

Earlier this year, the Golds were profiled in The New York Times, and I ask unanimous consent that the article, “In a Wistful Age, Farmers Find a New Angle: Chores” be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Aug. 7, 2020]

IN A WISTFUL AGE, FARMERS FIND A NEW ANGLE: CHORES

(By Ellen Barry)

PEACHAM, VT.—The sweet smell of hay rose off the earth on a recent evening, as Morgan Gold strode across his farmyard in heavy boots. He crossed the paddock, scanning for new eggs, water levels, infected peck wounds, rip in the fence line.

But mainly—let’s be honest—he was looking for content.

Though Mr. Gold sells poultry and eggs from his duck farm in Vermont’s northeast corner, most of what he produces as a farmer is, well, entertainment.

Mr. Gold, who is short and stocky, with the good-natured ease of a standup comedian, does his chores while carrying a digital camera in one hand and murmuring into a microphone.

Then, twice a week, like clockwork, he posts a short video on YouTube about his exploits as a neophyte farmer, often highlighting failures or pratfalls. Keeping a close eye on analytics, he has boosted his YouTube audiences high enough to provide a steady advertising revenue of around $2,500 to $4,000 a month, about eight times what he earns from selling farm produce.

This part of New England is rocky, hilly and isolated, and generations of small farmers have cast about for new ways to scrape out a living: the sleigh rides, the therapy ponies, the pick-your-own-heap. It is a new thing, though, to make farm life into reality TV.

Mr. Gold, 40, has learned the hard way—he tried to take a month off last winter—that any gap in his YouTube publication schedule results in a steep drop-off in audience. So he keeps a running list of themes that could be fodder for future videos. It reads, in part: Should I Feed My Dog Eggs? Don’t Trust This Duck

My Homestead Is a Dumpster Fire

What Does My Guard Dog Do All Day?

Morgan Gold, who has lived on YouTube since 2019 when he posted his first video, “What Does My Guard Dog Do All Day?” has learned the hard way—how to turn off Google's GoPro didn’t work. (“People were like, 10 seconds and I was puking,” said his wife, Allison Ebrahimi Gold.) Slow, sumptuous drone footage of his sun-dappled 150 acres, land porn for wistful cubicle dwellers—that definitely works.

Character development is key, he was told. By December 2019, Mr. Gold had learned to make his sheepdog videos playful, goggling goose butts, set to a bouncy, whimsical orchestral soundtrack, works.
Several dozen viewers have driven all the way to Peacham and knocked on his door, hoping to buy eggs or talk about ducks, something his wife described as "really disorienting." "I thought, 'Oh my God," she said, "that people assume they know us as people.'

Most of it is nice, though. Viewers send heartwarming cards and small gifts, like a plaque that says, in elaborate lettering, "Ye Olde Quack House." When one of the Gold's barn cats was hit by a car recently, at least some viewers offered cash to cover her medical bills.

Samier Elrasoul, a nursing student in Howell, Mich., is so devoted to Mr. Gold's videos that he got a vanity license plate reading QUICKN, in honor of the catchphrase—"Release the Quacken!"—that Mr. Gold exclaims when he frees his ducks from their Hutch in the morning.

Mr. Elrasoul, 34, says the videos inspire him because he too, has a dead-end job—he works as a supervisor at Starbucks—and he, too, harbors a dream of changing his life.

"He's a really good egg," Mr. Elrasoul said of Mr. Gold. "I'm not that good at the farming part." It is a paradox that the less financially viable small farming becomes, the more that Americans want to experience it firsthand.

"This idea is as old as the dude ranch; video streaming of farm life is only the most recent iteration. Amy Fellow, the founder of Homesteaders of America, said the number of farmers who earn substantial income off YouTube channels is steadily climbing, and now stands at around 50. Some of them earn money from endorsement deals, like Al Lumnah, who posts videos five days a week from his farm in Littleton, N.H.

It's a lot of work: Mr. Lumnah wakes up at 3:30 a.m., so he can edit the previous day's footage in time to post new video at 6 a.m., which his 210,000 regular viewers, who are scattered as far as Cambodia and India, have come to expect. "People will say, it's lunchtime here in Ukraine," Mr. Lumnah said.

Others, like Justin Rhodes, a farmer in North Carolina, have parlayed a giant YouTube audience into a dues-paying membership enterprise—he has 2,000 fans who pay annual fees of up to $249 for private instruction and direct communication, via text message. "We don't sell a single farm product," Mr. Rhodes said. "Our farm product is education and entertainment." Mr. Gold, who moved to Vermont and started his YouTube channel four years ago, has not reached that point. He still has a full-time job, as a marketing executive for an insurance company, and so far he has avoided the endorsement deals. He has built up his flocks of chickens, geese and ducks to 100, and is hoping to add cows next spring.

"It's like, how do you make me like me, just dropping everything and doing what he's passionate about, was very encouraging to see," he said. "I'm like, wow, he's living his dream." For others, Mr. Gold's farm has provided a haven in a difficult time. Charlotte Schmoll, who is 6 and lives in Portland, Ore., spent the beginning of lockdown watching Mr. Gold's videos over and over. She announced last month that she too, plans to raise ducks in Vermont.

"One of my last 50 views for the channel caught me up when we watch shows is, 'Is this real? Did this happen?'" said her mother, Julie Schmoll. "That's one of the things she liked about Mr. Rogers, and maybe she likes about the duck farmer, that he is also quote-unquote real, or real."

Mr. Gold does wonder, sometimes, about what it means, in the long term, to make his life into a story. When the cat was hit by a car, he found himself reflexively converting the event into a script, and stopped to ask himself who he was becoming.

"It's like, how do you make me like me, and how much is the packaging of the experience, and how do you distinguish between the two," he said. "Because you almost go, 'I had a duck die, let me think about the first act here, and the second act.'"

And still, the show goes on. Late on a recent evening, Mr. Gold was putting finishing touches on a video about his dog, Toby, who has never quite grown into his intended role as a duck herder.

Early drafts of the video had focused on how much the dog had improved. But there was something dishonest about that, Mr. Gold realized that evening, as he and Ms. Gold flung themselves around the interior spattered with eggs and blood and feathers. "It's like, how do you make me like me, just dropping everything and doing what he's passionate about, was very encouraging to see," he said. "I'm like, wow, he's living his dream."
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise to enter into a colloquy with the junior Senator from Nevada, regarding sections 2861 and 2862 of title XXVIII of the National Defense Authorization Act that was recently considered by the Senate. These two sections of the bill include complex, intertwined history of public lands, Nevada’s cultures and economy, Native American Tribes, and the Silver State’s proud role in hosting and training our men and women in uniform.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator from Nevada for joining me today for this colloquy. The Senator notes that these two sections of the National Defense Authorization Act raise profound historical public policy questions about how to protect our public lands, recognize the voices and issues raised by Native Americans, local governments, and concerned citizens, and maintain Nevada’s proud role in support of our Nation’s Armed Forces and our national security. These public policy questions are amongst the most consequential natural resource issues facing the Silver State and have prompted Nevadans from every corner of our State to engage on the best path forward.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I thank the junior Senator from Nevada for her partnership on these important questions. This year’s annual defense authorization bill is more than 1,000 pages long, but sections 2861 and 2862 together take up less than one page. As the Senator knows, while the legislative text seems quite simple, significant and historical public policy questions underpin these two sections of the bill.

Section 2861 provides for a 20-year extension of the public land withdrawals specific to Fallon Range Training Complex which is utilized by the U.S. Navy. Section 2862 provides for a similar 20-year extension of the public land withdrawals specific to the Nevada Test and Training Range, otherwise known as NTTR, which is utilized by the U.S. Air Force. The reality of what this legislation means to our constituents in Nevada, our Nation’s public lands, and its potential impact for current and future generations is far more complex. Given the importance of the public lands, Native American Tribes, Nevada’s culture and economy, and our Nation’s military, can the junior Senator from Nevada provide more detail on that history with respect to NTTR?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, to best answer the Senator’s question, it is important to start with the history of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. The establishment of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge predates the Nevada Test and Training Range and was created by President Franklin Roosevelt on May 29, 1936, via Executive Order 7373.

FDR created the Desert Game Range, as it was known then, to provide habitat and protection for desert bighorn sheep, Nevada’s State animal. Originally the Range totaled more than 2.25 million acres, including lands both north and south of U.S. Highway 95.

We know even more today about the value of this area. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge contains six mountain ranges and seven distinct life zones, totaling around 2,300 feet in elevation and rainfall have created diverse habitats, necessary for its hundreds of species of native flora and fauna to live and flourish. There are 500 species of plants and 300 species of birds. The Refuge is the largest wildlife refuge outside Alaska. The Refuge has gone through various legislative boundary adjustments and currently encompasses 1.615 million acres of the Mojave Desert, Public Land Order 4079, issued on August 26, 1966, and corrected on September 23, 1966, revoked EO 7373. This PLO changed the name to the Desert National Wildlife Range, reduced its size to 1.585 million acres, and transferred sole administration to the USFWS. Lands withdrawn in PLO 4079 were set aside specifically for the protection, enhancement, and maintenance of wildlife resources, including bighorn sheep. Then, in 1974, as part of a Wilderness review required by the Wilderness Act of 1964, 1.3 million acres of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge were proposed as Wilderness by USFWS. This history is important, but these lands also remain central to Native American Tribes in Nevada.

Could the senior Senator from Nevada expand upon their importance?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I thank the junior Senator for her question and would begin by noting that the mountains of southern Nevada are sacred lands, where Native Americans carved their stories onto its mountains and cliffs and left artifacts which detail how they lived and thrived. The bighorn sheep which are central to this area are sacred to Nevada’s Native American Tribes, including the Moapa Band of Paiutes, who are among the most acutely impacted by these public policy questions raised by Senator ROSEN. The creation story told by the Moapa Band of Paiutes includes references to bighorn sheep, and the Las Vegas Paiutes also regard the Desert National Wildlife Refuge as culturally significant. With the history of the Refuge properly established, can my colleague, a former member of the House Armed Services Committee, help provide history on NTTR?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, the history of NTTR begins in the 1940s when it was known as the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range, later changed to the Nellis Air Force Range in October 1957, and finally to NTTR in August 2003.

The NTTR is a military training area consisting of approximately 2.9 million acres of Federal land used by the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base in southern Nevada. The NTTR includes a “simulated Integrated Air Defense System” and several individual ranges with 12,000 targets. The NTTR area has been used for aerial gunnery and bombing, nuclear tests, as a proving ground and flight test area, and for aircraft control and warning exercises.

These 2.9 million acres have been withdrawn from public use and reserved for military use, including the approximately 842,254 acres of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge land that overlaps with the NTTR. The legislative history surrounding this history begins in 1940, with Executive Order 8578 giving the military joint administration with USFWS of the western half of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, for war purposes and restricting public access. The NTTR land withdrawals were extended in 1962, with the issuance of P.L. 2613, and in 1986, the withdrawals were extended for another 15 years with P.L. 99–310. Most recently, the withdrawals, were again extended through 2021, with P.L. 106–65 signed in 1999.

This law in 1999, included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000—P.L. 106–65—transferred primary jurisdiction of 110,000 acres of bombing impact areas on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge from the USFWS to the Department of Defense. These lands were reserved for use by the Secretary of the Air Force as an armament and high hazard testing area; for training for aerial gunnery, rocketry, electronic warfare, and tactical maneuvering and air support; and for equipment and tactics development and testing.

More recently, in 2014, the House of Representatives considered legislation, H.R. 4253, which proposed repealing the existing withdrawals found in section...
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3015 in P.L. 106-65. Furthermore, the legislation would have permanently transferred administrative jurisdiction of the withdrawn lands in Nevada and put them under control of the Air Force. This same provision was again included in the 2015 NDAA, H.R. 1735, which was ultimately vetoed by President Obama. In 2018, the House of Representatives included provisions which would have again attempted to repeal the existing withdrawals found in Section 3015 in P.L. 106-65 and permanently transferred administrative jurisdiction of the withdrawn lands to the Air Force.

With that history established, can Senator Cortez Masto provide the history behind the legislation that is still under consideration by the Congress?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I appreciate that question, because the process by which we find ourselves considering this legislation began on August 25, 2018, when the Air Force published a notice in the Federal Register to notify the public that it would begin preparing a legislative environmental impact statement related to the NTTR. This process, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, kicked off public, Native American, and government agency engagement on any potential expansion of the NTTR.

The outreach and scoping process on the proposed update to the legislative environmental impact statement was flawed from the beginning. For instance, in a letter dated March 8, 2018, Nevada’s former Governor Brian Sandoval, a Republican, wrote to the Air Force that “during the preparation of the legislative environmental impact statement, there was little interaction with our state agencies” and that “better coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife would have led to a more complete analysis and an opportunity to develop a compromise that would both enhance training opportunities for the Air Force and continue to provide essential protections for Nevada’s wildlife and outdoor recreational experiences.” Unfortunately, the process for incorporating concerns expressed with the Air Force’s plans for the NTTR have not improved over time. All told, more than 30,000 comments were submitted to the Air Force during their consideration of the legislative environmental impact statement, but concerns were largely ignored by the Air Force and left unaddressed in the final documents released by the Air Force in October 2018.

The issue was considered by the 80th session of the Nevada Legislature, which, on a nearly unanimous basis, passed Assembly Joint Resolution 2—AJR 2. AJR2 strongly urged Congress to “retract any proposal by the United States Air Force to expand its use of land exceeding jurisdiction within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge beyond that which it currently possesses and to limit any proposal to extend the Air Force’s authority over the Nevada Test and Training Range to not more than 20 years.” The legislation further urged Congress “to work collaboratively with all interested parties to develop a compromise alternative that would both enhance training opportunities for the Air Force and continue to provide essential protections for Nevada’s wildlife and outdoor recreational experiences for Nevadans and visitors.”

The inability for the legislative environmental impact statement to yield a consensus, compromise proposal was a major factor in my decision to begin developing my own legislation on this subject with my colleagues in the Nevada congressional delegation. My goal was to find a solution that would allow the Air Force to modernize its training while also respecting and preserving one of the country’s largest wildlife refuges. This process included extensive discussions and engagement with Nevada stakeholders including Tribal Nations and management of sportsmen and hunters, private landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Air Force.

Among other items, our legislation, S. 3145, firmly establishes public access to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, provides that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintain primary jurisdiction over the entirety of the Refuge, preserves Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction on Refuge lands east of the historic Alamo/Old Corn Creek Road, creates several Wilderness areas, and establishes an interagency committee for resolving management conflicts between the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It also allows for the Air Force, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, to place up to 15 threat emitters to maximize and enhance realistic pilot training, provides a buffer zone west of the historic Alamo/Old Corn Creek Road, and provides that the full Congress approve the use of the Fallon Range Training Complex present a range of complicated issues centered upon public lands, sovereign Tribal governments in Nevada and environmental justice, public access and recreation, energy and transportation infrastructure, and the ability for future economic development.

Could the senior Senator from Nevada provide more detail on some of this underlying history which helps make section 2861 so important to our constituents?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator for her comprehensive answer. As I have previously stated, I am hopeful this bipartisan compromise legislation will help resolve land management conflicts, preserve public access to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and serve to strengthen our national security. I have met with representatives from our local military leaders, and Air Force senior leadership on this issue. I will continue working with our local stakeholders—including military leaders, environmental and wildlife advocates, and members of Nevada’s Tribal communities—to make sure all voices are heard.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator’s partnership on this matter and share the Senator’s commitment to ensuring an effective answer to the pressing national security policy questions. While the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 that was approved by the Senate on July 23, 2020, does not address the breadth of issues covered in our legislation, I hope it will provide an impetus for continued engagement so that we can build momentum within Congress, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, and in Nevada, for our legislative proposal. I am sure I speak for my colleagues in the Nevada delegation on this matter, commit to work with any and all reasonable parties on this matter. I hope that we can solve this matter with an eye towards to its history. Our commitment to Native American Tribes, our precious public lands, our men and women in uniform, and our national security.

In addition, I would like to recognize Congressman Horsford and the other members of the Nevada congressional delegation for their efforts in the House to ensure that impacted Nevada stakeholders will be properly engaged and have a voice in the management of the Fallon Range Training Complex on which the Air Force operates in southern Nevada. His efforts will help guarantee improved decision making and collaboration amongst the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Air Force as it pertains to the joint use of the Fallon Test and Training Range and Desert National Wildlife Refuge. I welcome his contributions in a final product approved by the full Congress.

Would the junior Senator also care to comment on section 2861?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. As previously noted, section 2861 provides for a 20-year extension of the public land withdrawals specific to the Fallon Range Training Complex which is utilized by the U.S. Navy. Just like with section 2862, while this provision of the bill before us seems relatively simple, the underlying issues presented by the Fallon Range Training Complex present a range of complicated issues centered upon public lands, sovereign Tribal governments in Nevada and environmental justice, public access and recreation, energy and transportation infrastructure, and the ability for future economic development.

Could the senior Senator from Nevada provide more detail on some of this underlying history which helps make section 2861 so important to our constituents?
under Public Land Order 898 which withdrew 56,011 acres of public land for military use. In 1986—P.L. 99–606—and 1999—P.L. 106–65—Congress enacted legislation on this general subject by withdrawing additional public lands for military use. The law passed in 1999 was especially noteworthy. This law represented a major change to the local customs, culture, and economy because it withdrew approximately 201,933 acres of land for military use for 20 years. The Fallon Range Training Complex now encompasses more than 230,000 acres of public land because of numerous map revisions and land surveys by the BLM since 1999. These land withdrawals, which took effect on November 6, 2001, expire on November 5, 2021, absent congressional reauthorization.

While this history is important, it is also important to understand that the history in this area did not begin when the military became an integral part of the community. One such example is the Walker River Paiute Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign nation. One range, Bravo 19, of the larger Fallon Range Training Complex, is located directly adjacent to WRPT reservation land. The Tribe has conducted military testing and training on lands adjacent to the WRPT reservation. The National Congress of American Indians—NCAI—goes into more detail on the close physical proximity of these entities in Resolution No. ECWS–1904. The NCAI notes that the Walker River Paiute reservation land is “south and adjacent to Bravo 19, which is one of the training areas for Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon” and that the “Navy has encumbered tribal land (est. 6,000 acres), which has been contaminated with live ordinance, caused historical damage to range wells and facilities and has left such land useless as this land cannot be totally cleaned up of ordinance and bombs.”

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe has an equally important mark on the history of this unique area in northern Nevada. As detailed by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada in Resolution 06–ITCN–19, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe is federally recognized and have lived, hunted, and prayed on their ancestral lands which encompass many significant areas in this region of the Silver State. This has resulted in a range of issues for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, including, but not limited to, access to traditional lands, including spiritual and cultural sites. These impacts are not trivial to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, but it should be noted that the current Chairman of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Len George, published a piece in their March 2020 Tribal newsletter expressing his support for reauthorization of the existing withdrawn lands, but not for the expansion as proposed by the Navy.

The broader community in and around NAS Fallon also has a long history with this military base. Churchill County and the city of Fallon are the proud home of NAS Fallon, and both want to remain the proud home of NAS Fallon. That being said, this military base and training range is only one part of a larger community which each have to work together to balance its activities on public land against a range of other interrelated activities such as agriculture, clean energy development, hunting, outdoor recreation, and mining.

Given these factors, it is easy to understand the amount of attention the Department of Navy received in August of 2016 when it published its notice in the Federal Register that it was initiating its process under the National Environmental Policy Act to “assess the potential environmental consequences of maintaining and modernizing the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) in Nevada, which would include land range expansion through additional land withdrawals and land acquisition, airspace modifications, and public land withdrawal renewal.” Scoping meetings drew hundreds of attendees, and the Navy’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement resulted in more than 200 unique comments. Unfortunately, the robust scoping meetings and good-faith efforts to work together ultimately has not fully resolved some of the fundamental issues with the Navy’s proposal. The shortcoming of these efforts have been apparent and was captured in 2018 by our former and our current Governor in letters sent to the Navy in December 2018 and November 2019. Since then, the Navy has undertaken a serious effort to understand local concerns through a series of ongoing discussions and pledged commitments.

The National Environmental Policy Act process was subsequently completed in March of 2020 with a signed Record of Decision. The Navy’s ROD proposes an expansion that includes approximately 600,000 acres of public land and approximately 66,000 acres of private land located primarily in Churchill County, but affecting a total of five counties. When considering associated airspace modifications, the Navy’s proposal will affect over half of all Nevada counties. While affected counties, Tribes, and State agencies worked with the Navy to identify key assurances in the ROD, which reflected the thorough engagement, the ROD could not and did not alleviate all concerns.

Shortly before the Navy made their decision in March of 2020, Senator ROSEN, Congressman HORSFORD, and I wrote a letter to the process from the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committees where we noted that the lack of consensus left us with “no choice other than to initiate our own process to gather input from as many of our constituents as possible.”

With regards to both sections of the National Defense Authorization Act, we continue to seek that consensus, and I would note in particular that Governor Sisolak and his administration have been helpful with this effort, especially in working with affected counties and the Nevada Association of Counties to bring State agencies, local governments, and Tribes together. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Churchill County which also worked with the State and the aforementioned stakeholders to collaboratively compile a list of outstanding concerns and suggested means of addressing those concerns with the Navy’s proposal. The combined efforts from stakeholders in our State has been an invaluable resource.

In the meantime, I appreciate that this bill does not attempt to force a solution upon the Silver State which has virtually no support from my constituents. Rather, by authorizing new 20-year extensions of the public land withdrawals, it removes uncertainty by reinforcing the critical mission of the U.S. military in Nevada and its efforts to modernize while ensuring Federal, State, local, and Tribal stakeholders to continue their dialogue to find the right way forward.

Ms. ROSEN, Mr. President, I thank the Senator for her leadership on this matter and share her commitment to working together with our constituents in Nevada to reach a consensus proposal. While critical concerns remain, Nevada’s congressional delegation has a long history of finding pragmatic solutions to public land challenges, and I look forward to working with Senator CORTEZ MASTO, Congressman AMODEI, and the rest of the delegation to continue this tradition.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. President, I thank the Senator for her partnership.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred:

H.R. 451. An act to repeal the requirement to reallocate and auction the T-Band spectrum, to amend the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 to clarify acceptable 9–1–1 obligations or expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
H.R. 3798. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H.R. 4983. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the “Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H.R. 5747. An act to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a rehoming assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H.R. 6379. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE FROM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

On request by Senator DUCKWORTH, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce: Gregory Autry, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, vice Jeffrey DeWitt.

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–5561. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis: Importation of Cattle and Bisons” (RIN0579–AD85) (Docket No. APHIS–2020–0062) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5562. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Taking Administation Actions Pending Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Processing” (RIN0584–AE83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5563. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; 2020 Farm Bill Provisions on Clarification of Split Issuance; Accrual of Benefits and Definition Changes” (RIN0584–AE82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5564. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Rule; Designation of Isle of Shoals North as an Ocean Drugged Material Disposal Site for the Southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts Coastal Region” (RIN 1074–GF86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5565. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of the Revoked 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Updates to 40 CFR Part 52 for Areas that Attained by the Attainment Date” (FRL No. 10013–72–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5566. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical and Substances (20–1.1e)” (FRL No. 10013–34–OSCP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5567. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska for the 2021 Season” (RIN1018–BE24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5568. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Maine; Midcoast Area and Portland Second 10-Year Limited Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS” (FRL No. 10014–81–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5569. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the West Virginia Portion of the Marcellus Shale” (FRL No. 10014–80–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR)” (FRL No. 10012–65–OMS) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5571. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Department of the Senate on September 21, 2020, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2921. A bill to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–289).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2922. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land located in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–270).

S. 2944. A bill to designate the Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–271).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 4681. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate certain limitations with respect to pre-production plastic pellet pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HENRICH, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4682. A bill to provide grants for local care corps programs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4683. A bill to designate the Battleship Iowa Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. ENZI (for himself and Mr. Barrasso):

S. 4684. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the “Robert L. Brown Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4685. A bill to prohibit assistance to foreign governments that violate human rights with respect to religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4686. A bill to recognize the refugee and immigrant community of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive ordnance threats to war and postwar Cambodia and other countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4687. A bill to expand domestic content requirements for certain shipboard components, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CASHEY, and Mr. BROWN):
for the selection by certain entities of motor carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. ROBUDO): S. 4723. A bill to establish a regulatory system for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the United States exclusive economic zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CASSIDY): S. 4724. A bill to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY): S. 4725. A bill to establish programs to facilitate commercial application of clean energy and related technologies in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SHAHEEN: S. 4726. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to require the Secretary of Transportation to develop and maintain a program to improve energy efficiency in transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE: S. 4727. A bill to require the establishment of an advanced energy technology research initiative and an advanced energy technology demonstration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ROMNY): S. 4728. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to officials of the Government of the Russian Federation complicit in the poisoning of its citizens for political motives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY: S. 4729. A bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN): S. 4730. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN): S. 4731. A bill to require the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish cybersecurity guidance for small organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIHONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. REID): S. 4732. A bill to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL: S. 4733. A bill to designate the National Service Animals Monument to recognize the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and hands-on animals in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. ROBUDO): S. 4734. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of Medicare secondary payer rules to certain workers' compensation settlement agreements and qualified Medicare set-aside provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. PAUL): S. 4735. A bill to address recommendations made to Congress by the Government Accountability Office in its Fall 2019 annual report on duplication, fragmentation, and overlap, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. GILLIHAND, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. SMITH): S. 4736. A bill to prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH: S. 4737. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to covered health departments to increase the rate of recommended immunizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURKRAY (for herself and Mr. BROWN): S. 4738. A bill to provide a right to flexibility and to broaden and increase employee protections and work protect small businesses through shared responsibility for workers' rights, to provide public transparency on workers' rights violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MORGAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LOEPFFER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOPVEN, Ms. ERNT, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFFER, Mr. CORKIN, and Mr. COTTON): S. Res. 715. A resolution expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HASAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. CAPITO): S. Res. 716. A resolution designating the week of October 5 through October 9, 2020, as ‘‘National Ataxia Awareness Week’’; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH): S. Res. 717. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 25, 2020, as ‘‘National Ataxia Awareness Day’’, and raising awareness of ataxia, ataxia research, and the search for a cure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. VANDENHOUTEN): S. Res. 718. A resolution reaffirming the Senate’s commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. HIRONIC, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. REED): S. Res. 719. A resolution recognizing September 22, 2020, as ‘‘National Voter Registration Day’’; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. COONS): S. Res. 720. A resolution designating October 8, 2020, as ‘‘National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day’’; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY): S. Res. 721. A resolution designating the week beginning October 18, 2020, as ‘‘National Character Counts Week’’; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KAINEN): S. Res. 724. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the practice of politically motivated imprisonment of women around the world and calling on governments for the immediate release of women who are political prisoners; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WYDEN): S. Res. 725. A resolution establishing the Senate Human Rights Commission; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 428 At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 1326 At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1326, a bill to require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to estimate the value of electromagnetic spectrum assigned or otherwise allocated to Federal entities.

S. 1372 At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1372, a bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

September 24, 2020 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE S5865
At the request of Ms. Stabenow, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3001, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O’Ree, in recognition of extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

At the request of Mr. Blumenthal, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Hyde-Smith, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Thune) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Hyde-Smith, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth.

At the request of Mr. Udall, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3263, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Murray, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3513, a bill to provide Americans with paid sick time and paid leave so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) were added as cosponsors of S. 3517, a bill to increase the ability of nursing facilities to access to telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19), and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3748, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to simplify payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers or rural health clinics under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. King, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3998, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure access to mental health and behavioral health services furnished through telehealth under the Medicare program.

At the request of Mr. Thune, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) and the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) were added as cosponsors of S. 4063, a bill to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID–19, applications for impact flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID–19 public health emergency.

At the request of Mr. Murphy, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) were added as cosponsors of S. 4221, a bill to provide temporary licensing reciprocity for telehealth and interstate health care treatment.

At the request of Mr. Paul, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. Lee) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4487, a bill to extend limits on discretionary spending through fiscal year 2024.

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Shaheen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4547, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horse racing by requiring uniform safety and performance standards, including a horseracing anti-doping and medication control program and a racetrack safety program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) were added as cosponsors of S. 4561, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Hirono, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4600, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the responses of the Department of Defense to sex-related offenses, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Wicker, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.
ROMNEY), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4634, a bill to provide support for air carrier workers, and for other purposes.

S. 4634

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4662, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize blocking law enforcement officers who have been injured by a criminal act or in the line of duty from accessing emergency medical services.

S. J. RES. 14

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 14, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of not more than 9 justices.

S. RES. 679

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 679, a resolution expressing appreciation and support for essential employees with disabilities or who are blind during the COVID–19 pandemic and beyond.

S. RES. 689

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 689, a resolution condemning the crackdown on peaceful protestors in Belarus and calling for the imposition of sanctions on responsible officials.

S. RES. 701

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 701, a resolution urging the Government of Burma to hold free, fair, inclusive, transparent, participatory, and credible elections on November 8, 2020.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senate Majority Whip (Ms. HADIO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4683. A bill to designate the Battleship IOWA Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the “Battleship Iowa National Museum of the Surface Navy Act of 2020,” which I introduced today.

This simple bill would designate the Battleship USS Iowa Museum located in Los Angeles, California as the “National Museum of the Surface Navy.”

The Battleship USS Iowa Museum would be the official museum to honor the millions of Americans who have proudly served and continue to serve in the United States Surface Navy since the founding of the Navy on October 13, 1775.

The Battleship USS Iowa is an iconic ship that served as a home to hundreds of thousands of sailors from all 50 States. Commissioned in 1943, the Battleship Iowa has received accolades as the “World’s Greatest Navy Ship” and has several nicknames including the “Big Stick,” the “Mighty I” and the “Big Stick,” which referred to President Teddy Roosevelt’s famous adage: “Speak softly and carry a big stick.”

The USS Iowa was also known as the “Battleship of Presidents.” In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used the ship for meetings with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin. President George H.W. Bush re-commissioned the USS Iowa in 1994 while serving as Vice President of the United States. Prior to the USS Iowa’s decommissioning in 1990, President Ronald Reagan used the ship for our Nation’s Celebration of Liberty in New York City on July 4, 1986.

The USS Iowa earned nine battle stars for service in World War II and two for service during the Korean War. The ship was also awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Navy ‘E’ Ribbon—four times.

In 2012, the Navy donated the Battleship Iowa to the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Upon returning to Thermopolis, Bob began a career with the U.S. Postal Service. That career spanned 44 years, including many years as postmaster. I hope John will tell more of the postal love affair and how Bob Brown met and courted the person who picked up the mail. That lady later became my first Sunday school teacher.

Bob Brown will be sorely missed in Thermopolis, WY. At 94 years of age, he did have some health issues, but he had a devoted daughter, Bobbi Brown Barrasso, wife of Senator BARRASSO, who had been Senator Thomas’ State director. She was her dad’s caregiver. She took care of him in Casper as well as Thermopolis. She drove him back and forth wherever he wanted or needed to go, which meant especially back and forth to needed clinics with doctors in Thermopolis and in Casper. When COVID happened, she stayed with him and protected him.

Bob Brown will be sorely missed in his community, and I can think of no
better way to honor someone with such a long and storied career with the U.S. Postal Service, as well as with the people of Thermopolis, than to introduce this bill to name the Thermopolis post office after him.

The historic building holds the memories of a veteran who came home to work and spent his entire career in that building, winding up as postmaster.

The lead Democratic cosponsor of this bill is Senator Tom Carper, who is the strongest advocate I know of for the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Carper. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague Senator Enzi for allowing me to be his wingman on this particular postal naming bill.

I never met Robert Brown. I certainly know his daughter Bobbi, and I certainly know his son-in-law, John Barrasso, my colleague.

Just listening to what Senator Enzi has said, service in World War II, service in the Korean war, service in the U.S. Postal Service—that is a lifetime of service. That is a lifetime of service.

In my own family, my dad and my uncles all served in World War II, a number in Korea as well, and a cousin in the U.S. Marine Service for many years. I like to say—I know this isn’t original to me—that service to others is the rent we pay for the space we take up on this Earth. Think about that. Service to others is the rent we pay for the space we take up on this Earth.

I would say to Robert L. Brown, if you are listening—I think you probably are—thank you for your extraordinary service, and thank you for Bobbi. And we ought to thank Bobbi, your daughter. Mr. Brown, for sharing your husband with us. He is a good man. It is a good package, and we are grateful for that.

None of us can live forever. Senator Barrasso and me, telling me—my mom, even a month ago about driving his father-in-law I think it was 400 miles or something from Wyoming up to maybe Montana for medical care, medical attention. I thought: What an extraordinary act of love and kindness. I don’t think his death was imminent at the time, but it was a great opportunity, I bet, for the two of them to just renew and bond one more time.

It is sad to say goodbye. None of us can live forever. And for those who lived service like Bobbi’s dad, we just say this, especially in Navy talk—I am a retired Navy captain, Vietnam veteran. In the Navy, we like to say of folks in the Army: Different uniform, same team.

When folks do extraordinary things in service to our country, whether it is in uniform of the Army or whether it is in uniform of the Navy or the Postal Service, we say Bravo Zulu. Bravo Zulu.

Thank you for allowing me to join you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. First, Mr. President, I would like to express my deep appreciation, admiration, and respect to both Senator Enzi and Senator Carper for introducing this legislation to honor Bob Brown. There he is. This is actually a picture of us. I am next to him.

When you look at that smile, that is a smile that is as beautiful as the sunrise, as welcoming as a rainbow. What a wonderful man.

He was known by many in Thermopolis as Bob Brown, the nicest guy in town. It was his hometown, and it stayed with him from high school—1943.

This Greatest Generation, Mike and Tom, as veterans—having worn the uniform, borne the battle—know that we are losing the Greatest Generation so rapidly. What a generation—World War II, the European theater, the Pacific theater, returning home, working in the post office, serving on the farm.

As Senator Enzi said, he was a postal clerk. There was a young lady, Jeralyn, who worked at the local bank, and she would come every day to pick up the mail. She caught his eye, he caught her eye, and they lived and married and were together for 70 years. They had two wonderful children—Mike Brown and my wife, Bobbi—and a granddaughter, who really was the apple of their eye, Hadley.

But this group—World War II and Korea, the Senators both mentioned—in the Korean war, Bob was part of the 300th, the Cowboy Cannoniers, an incredible unit—Unit Bravery Citation. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He never talked about it. He was very humble.

He returned to Thermopolis, just took care of people in the community, to the point of serving as postmaster for many of his 44 years at the post office. People knew him, loved him, and admired him.

I know that Mike had a chance to talk to the postmaster in Thermopolis yesterday about what we were going to do. She had actually known Bob, as anyone in town had, and was very grateful for having known him.

Last year Bob and Jerry celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. We lost Jerry this spring, and on 9/11 we lost Bob. He passed away at the age of 94. He was surrounded by his loving family. And his daughter Bobbi truly is, as Senator Enzi said, the caregiver. I say she is a saint. People who know her know that to be true.

As we talk about this Greatest Generation, of which Bob was a very significant part, we can think back to the history of this country.

Mr. President, in the Chair, you are a marine, and you know this. It reminds me of the speech that Abraham Lincoln gave during his first year as President in the White House. On the Fourth of July, there was a flag-raising ceremony, and he gave a very short speech. The speech that Lincoln gave that day was: It is my job to raise the flag. And then to everyone else there, he said: And it is your job to keep it up.

Like you, Mr. President; you, Senator Enzi; you, Senator Carper—Bob Brown was one to keep it up.

Since we have bipartisan cosponsors and cosponsors of this legislation, let me then talk about John Kennedy, who at his inaugural talked about this Nation being willing to pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, and oppose any foe.

Ronald Reagan talked about the fact that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not something that we inherited in the bloodstream. It is something that has to be fought for, protected, defended, and then handed down to the next generation to do the same. And that is Bob Brown.

This year is Wyoming’s 130th birthday, turned 130 this summer. So, 30 years ago, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Wyoming. Herbert Walker Bush, then-President of the United States, came to Wyoming to talk about Wyoming and its history. He said: Wyoming is a very special and sacred place. And he said: The values and traditions of Wyoming continue to inspire America.

Bob Brown’s values and his vision continue to inspire everyone who was ever privileged to know him. May he rest in peace.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to add one thought. I was about to run and jump in my minivan and head to Delaware. The thought occurred to me, your father-in-law served all those years in uniform with the Army and then many more years in uniform with the Postal Service.

I want to say to the men and women who serve in the Postal Service today, and to the men and women of Wyoming, to the men and women who are serving in uniform, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard—I just want to say to the Postal Service, thank you for enabling our men and women in service, in uniform, who are serving around the world, to actually vote this year.

When I was a naval flight officer in Southeast Asia during my first and third tour, I was in a F-3 squadron, and we serviced surveillance aircraft—land base, South China Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, and off the coast of Vietnam. I was asked by my commanding officer to be the voting officer—and not once but in 1970 and again in 1972. We had 300 men. We had no women in our squadron then. But my job was to get 300 men signed up, registered to vote in their States—and they are from all over the country—and I did the same thing again in 1972.

The force of great joy to me to know that we were able to exercise our right to vote on the other side of the world and made possible by the Postal Service.
That thought occurred because your dad has been both on the sending and receiving side as a member of the Army and at the Postal Service.

May he rest in peace. God bless.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 4703. A bill to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the “West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act,” which I introduced today, Representative Ted LIEU (D-CA) has introduced similar legislation in the House.

In 1888, the 388-acre parcel that is now home to the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center was deeded to the Federal government by Arcadia Bandini de Stearns Baker and Senator John F. Jones, to establish a home for disabled Veterans (civil war Veterans, at the time).

For nearly a century, the land served primarily to house Veterans, and the campus long represented the largest Veterans Development in the nation. In the early 1970s, 2,800 Veterans living on the West LA VA campus were displaced when the Sylmar Earthquake caused major damage on campus. Rather than repair the housing units, the VA eventually leased portions of the property to non-VA tenants.

In 2011, homeless Veterans and advocates sued the VA for illegally leasing facilities on campus and failing to use the property to support Veterans, as required by the original deed. A U.S. District Court subsequently ruled that many leases on campus were illegal under the terms of the original deed, and in 2015, the VA agreed to facilitate the development of 1,200 housing units for homeless Veterans on campus.

In 2016, Congress enacted the “West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016” to set up an oversight framework for the housing development and to ensure that lease revenues from ongoing leases stayed on campus.

In 2018, the VA selected a “Principal Developer” to complete housing renovation and construction projects on campus, allowing for a more streamlined and efficient building process. However, the VA has determined that current law restricts it from contributing to housing construction, maintenance, or services. The VA has determined that clarifying language is needed to ensure that funds generated on campus can be used for these purposes.

Giving VA the flexibility to use locally-generated revenue in this way could significantly reduce the time it takes to get homeless Veterans into housing.

The West LA VA Campus Improvement Act authorizes the VA to use any funds collected pursuant to leases, easements or other use-agreements at the West LA VA for the development of supportive housing and services on campus.

The bill would also increase the time period for enhanced use leases on the campus from 75 to 99 years. Increasing the length of leases would align with other leasing terms the VA has, and help reduce the financing costs for new housing.

This year, the regional homelessness count reported that more than 3,900 Veterans are experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. It is long past time for this land to be returned to its intended purpose: to serve as a home where Veterans can receive the care and treatment they deserve. This bill will help move us closer to that reality.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:
S. 4704. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to the Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway, to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify a provision relating to the operation of vehicles on that highway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4706
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LOUIE B. NUNN (CUMBERLAND) PARKWAY.

(a) DESIGNATION AS HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR.—Section 1105(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 105 Stat. 2032; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(92) The Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway from the interchange with Interstate 65 in Barren County, Kentucky, east to the interchange with U.S. Highway 27 in Somerset, Kentucky.”;

(b) DESIGNATION AS FUTURE INTERSTATE.—Section 1106(e)(5)(A) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 105 Stat. 2032; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended in the first sentence by striking “and subsection (c)(91)” and inserting “and subsection (c)(91) and subsection (c)(92)”.

(c) NUMBERING OF PARKWAY.—Section 1106(e)(5)(C)(1) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 105 Stat. 597; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended in the first sentence by striking “and subsection (c)(91)” and inserting “and subsection (c)(91) and subsection (c)(92)”.

(d) OPERATION OF VEHICLES.—Section 127(1)(3)(A) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (1), in the first sentence, by striking “clauses (i) through (iv) of this subparagraph” and inserting “clauses (i) through (v)” and;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) The Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway (to be designated as a spur of Interstate Route 65) from the interchange with Interstate 65 in Barren County, Kentucky, east to the interchange with U.S. Highway 27 in Somerset, Kentucky.”;

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Ms. HIRONO):
S. 4713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt a portion of unemployment compensation received during 2020 from income taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4713
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 “Coronavirus Unemployment Benefits Tax Relief Act”.

SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF TAX ON PORTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 85 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(92) The Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MARFA, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):
S. 4714. A bill to preserve health benefits for workers; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4714
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 “Worker Health Coverage Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. PRESERVING HEALTH BENEFITS FOR WORKERS.

(a) PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on January 31, 2021, for COBRA continuation coverage with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A), such individual shall be treated for purposes of COBRA continuation provision as having paid the amount of such premium if such individual pays (and
any person other than such individual’s employer pays on behalf of such individual 0 percent of the amount of such premium owed by such individual (as determined without regard to this subpart).

(ii) FURLoughed continuation coverage.—In the case of any premium for a period of furlough during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on January 31, 2021, for coverage under a group health plan with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(B), such individual shall not be required to make a payment of any premium for any such period of furlough under the plan offered by the plan sponsor in which the individual is enrolled by paying any person other than such individual’s employer on behalf of such individual 0 percent of the amount of such premium owed by such individual (as determined without regard to this subpart).

(B) Plan enrollment option.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the COBRA continuation provisions, any assistance eligible individual who is enrolled in a group health plan offered by a plan sponsor, not later than 90 days after the date of notice of the plan enrollment option described in this subparagraph, may elect to enroll in coverage under a plan offered by such a plan sponsor that is different than coverage under the plan in which such individual was enrolled at the time at which such election is made; or

(ii) the premium for such different coverage does not exceed the premium for coverage in which such individual was enrolled at the time at which such qualifying event occurred or immediately before such furlough began; and

(C) Special enrollment period following expiration of premium assistance.—Notwithstanding section 1311 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031), the expiration of premium assistance pursuant to a limitation specified under subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a qualifying event for which an assistance eligible individual is eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange under title I of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) during the applicable time period specified in subparagraph (A) as applicable. Such notice shall be provided to the group health plan in such time and manner as may be specified by such plan sponsor.

(D) Assistance eligible individual.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘assistance eligible individual’ means, with respect to the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on January 31, 2021—

(A) any individual that is a qualified beneficiary that—

(i) is eligible for COBRA continuation coverage by reason of a qualifying event specified under section 603(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1163(2)), section 4980B(f)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2203(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb–3(2)), or section 8965a(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code (except for the voluntary termination of such individual’s employment by such individual); and

(ii) elects such coverage; or

(B) any covered employee that is in a furlough period that remains eligible for coverage under a group health plan offered by the employer of such covered employee.

(4) Extension of election period and effect on coverage.—

(A) In general.—For purposes of applying section 605(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1165(a)), section 4980B(f)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2203(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb–5(a)), and section 8965a(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code, in the case of—

(i) an individual who did not have an election of COBRA continuation coverage in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act but who would be an assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A) if such election were so in effect; or

(ii) an individual who elected COBRA continuation coverage on or after March 1, 2020, and discontinued from such coverage before the date of the enactment of this Act, such individual may elect the COBRA continuation coverage under the COBRA continuation coverage provisions containing such provisions during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending 60 days after the date on which the notice required under paragraph (7)(C) is provided to such individual.

(B) Commencement of COBRA continuation coverage.—Any COBRA continuation coverage elected by a qualified beneficiary during an extended election period under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall apply as if such qualified beneficiary had been covered for a period of time and manner as may be specified by such plan sponsor.

(ii) shall not extend beyond the period of COBRA continuation coverage provision if the coverage had been elected as required under such provision.

(5) Expedited review of denial of premium assistance.—In any case in which an individual requests treatment as an assistance eligible individual described in subparagraph (A) or of paragraph (1) and any cost-sharing requirements for items and services under a group health plan; and

(ii) shall not extend beyond the period of COBRA continuation coverage that would have been required under the applicable COBRA continuation coverage provision if the coverage had been elected as required under such provision.

(6) Assistance for veterans.—In the case of veterans, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for the payment of premium assistance under this subpart for any such period of furlough and for any period of time during which such individual is eligible for such premium assistance.
expedited review of such denial. An indi-
vidual shall be entitled to such review upon application to such Secretary in such form and manner as shall be provided by such Secre-
ty of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury. Such Secretary shall make a de-
termination regarding such individual’s eli-
gibility within 15 business days after receipt of such application pursuant to this subparagraph. Either Secretary’s de-
termination upon review of the denial shall be de novo and shall be the final determina-
tion. A reviewing court shall grant deference to such Secretary’s de-
termination. The provisions of this para-
graph, paragraphs (4) through (7), and para-
graphs (9) through (11) shall be treated as provi-

(6) DISCLOSURE OF SUBSIDIES FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Notwith-
standing any other provision of law, any pre-
mium assistance with respect to an assist-
ance eligible individual under this sub-
section shall not be considered income, in-
kind support, or resources for purposes of de-
termining the eligibility of the recipient (or the recipient’s family) for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, or any other benefit provided under any Federal program, any program authorized under political subdivisions thereof financed in whole or in part under Federal funds.

(7) COBRA-SPECIFIC NOTICE.—

(A) GENERAL NOTICE.—

(i) In general.—In the case of notices pro-

vided under section 606(a)(4) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166(a)(4)), section 4980B(f)(6)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2206(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–6(4)), or section 606a(a)(2)(A) or (2)(B) of title 5, United States Code, with respect to individu-
als who, during the period described in para-
graph (3), become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, the require-
ments of such provisions shall not be treated
as met unless such notices include an addi-
tional notification to the recipient a written
notice in clear and understandable language of—

(I) the availability of premium assistance with respect to such coverage under this sub-
section;

(II) the option to enroll in different cov-
deration with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall, with administrative assistance provided to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A) or (3)(B) (or any individual described in paragraph (4)(A) who became entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe a model for such addi-
tional notification.

(B) TIMING SPECIFIED.—For purposes of sub-
paragraph (A), the timing requirement speci-
ified in subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) with respect to an assistance eligible individual who is within a furlough period during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, 30 days after the date of such enactment; and

(ii) with respect to such an individual who is within a furlough period during the period beginning on January 31, 2021, 30 days after the date of the beginning of such furlough period.
(9) NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF PERIOD OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any assistance eligible individual, subject to subparagraph (A) of section 606(a)(4) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166(4)), section 4980B(f)(6)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 4980B(f)(6)(B)), or section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, shall not be treated as met unless the employer, the administrator of the group health plan, or other relevant entity, provides to such individual—

(i) the premium assistance as of the date of such expiration;

(ii) that such individual may be eligible for coverage without any premium assistance through—

(1) COBRA continuation coverage; or

(2) coverage under a group health plan;

(iii) that the expiration of premium assistance is treated as a qualifying event for which any assistance eligible individual is subject to, unless such assistance eligible individual is subject to such a subsection that provides under this subsection to a period of coverage shall be treated as a reference to a monthly or shorter period of coverage with respect to such individual; or

(iv) the information specified in paragraph (7)(B)(vii).

(B) EXCEPTION.—The requirement for the group health plan administrator to provide the written notice under subparagraph (A) shall be waived in the case the premium assistance for such individual expires pursuant to clause (i)(I) or (ii)(I) of paragraph (2)(A).

(C) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the period specified in this subsection with respect to the date of expiration of premium assistance for any assistance eligible individual pursuant to a limitation requiring a notice under this paragraph, the period beginning on the day that is 45 days before the date of such expiration ending on the day that is 15 days before the date of such expiration.

(D) MODEL NOTICES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any assistance eligible individual—

(I) the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management shall provide outreach consisting of public education and enrollment assistance relating to premium assistance eligible individuals, including lifetime penalties for failure of timely enrollment.

(II) the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services may prescribe the means of law described in subparagraph (B).

(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(A) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘‘administrator’’ has the meaning given such term in section 607(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(B) COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—The term ‘‘COBRA continuation coverage’’ means continuation coverage for an assistance eligible individual pursuant to part 6 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (other than under section 609), title XII of the Employee Retirement Act, section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (other than subsection (f)(1) of such section as it relates to pediatric vaccines), or section 8905a(f) of title 5, United States Code, or under a State program that provides comparable continuation coverage.

(C) COBRA CONTINUATION PROVISION.—The term ‘‘COBRA continuation provision’’ means the provisions of law described in subparagraph (B).

(D) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘‘covered employee’’ means the meaning given such term in section 607(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(E) QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY.—The term ‘‘qualified beneficiary’’ has the meaning given such term in section 607(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(F) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term ‘‘group health plan’’ has the meaning given such term in section 607(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(G) STATE.—The term ‘‘State’’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(H) PERIOD OF COVERAGE.—Any reference in this subsection to a period of coverage shall be treated as a reference to a monthly or shorter period of coverage with respect to which premiums are charged with respect to such coverage.

(I) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term ‘‘plan sponsor’’ has the meaning given such term in section 3(18) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(J) FURLOUGH PERIOD.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘furlough period’’ means, with respect to an individual, the period beginning on or after March 1, 2020 and before January 31, 2021 during which such individual’s work hours (due to a lack of work, funds, or other nondisciplinary reason) to an amount that is less than 70 percent of the base month amount; and

(bb) the month following the first month during which work hours of such employee are for more than 80 percent of work hours of the base month amount.

(II) BASE MONTH AMOUNT.—For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘‘base month amount’’ means—

(A) with respect to an individual, the greater of—

(I) the number of individuals provided such assistance as of the date of the report; and

(ii) the total amount of expenditures incurred (with administrative expenditures noted separately) in connection with such assistance as of the date of the report.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable after the last period of COBRA continuation coverage for which premium assistance is provided under this section, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly submit a final report to each Committee referred to in subparagraph (A) that includes—

(i) the number of individuals provided premium assistance under this section; and

(ii) the average dollar amount (monthly and annually) of premium assistance provided to such individuals; and

(iii) the total amount of expenditures incurred (with administrative expenditures noted separately) in connection with premium assistance under this section.

(14) COBRA PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Such section 2(a)(1) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

‘‘SEC. 6432. CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.’’

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—The person to whom premiums are payable for continuation coverage under section 1611 of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by section 4980B(d) as attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(a), for each calendar quarter an amount equal to the premiums in connection with assistance eligible individuals for such coverage by reason of such section 2(a)(1) with respect to such calendar quarter.

(b) PREPARED TO WHOM PREMIUMS ARE PAYABLE.—For purposes of subsection (a), except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, the premium on continuation coverage under such section 2(a)(1) shall be treated as being—

(I) in the case of any group health plan with respect to which more than 90 percent of the individuals provided coverage under subsection (a), the amount provided under section 3(37) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the plan,
“(2) in the case of any group health plan not described in paragraph (1)—

(A) which provides furlough continuation coverage described in section 2(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act with respect to such coverage, the employer maintaining the plan, and

(B) in the case of any group health plan not described in paragraph (1) or (2), the insurer providing the coverage under the group health plan.

(2) Refundability and Refundability.—

(C) CREDIT LIMITED TO CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT TAXES.—The credit allowed by subsection (a) with respect to any calendar quarter shall not exceed the tax imposed by section 3111(a), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3221(a), for such calendar quarter (reduced by any credits allowed under subsections (e) and (f) of section 3111, sections 7001 and 7003 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, section 2301 of the CARES Act, and sections 20204 and 20212 of the COVID–19 Tax Relief Act of 2020 for such quarter) on the wages paid with respect to the employment of all employees of the employer.

(D) REFLUNDABILITY OF EXCESS CREDIT.—

(A) CREDIT IS REFUNDABLE.—If the amount of the credit under subsection (a) exceeds the limitation of paragraph (1) for any calendar quarter, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment that shall be refunded under section 6651(a) and (b).

(B) CREDIT MAY BE ADVANCED.—In anticipation of the credit, including the refundable portion under subparagraph (A), the credit may be advanced, according to forms and instructions provided by the Secretary, up to an amount calculated under subsection (a) through the end of the most recent payroll period in the quarter.

(C) TREATMENT OF DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall waive any penalty under section 6656 for any failure to make a deposit of the tax imposed under section 3221(a), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(a), if the Secretary determines that such failure was due to the anticipation of the credit allowed under this section.

(D) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324 of title 31, United States Code, any amounts due to an employer under this paragraph shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b) or (2) of such section.

(3) LIMITATION ON REIMBURSEMENT FOR FURLOUGHED EMPLOYEES.—In the case of an individual who for any month is an assistance eligible individual, the term `individual' includes any governmental entity or Indian tribal government (as defined in section 1396d(c)(1))

(d) GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term `individual' includes any governmental entity or Indian tribal government (as defined in section 1396d(c)(1)).

(e) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—For purposes of chapter 2, the gross income of any person allowed a credit under this section shall be increased for the taxable year which includes the last day of any calendar quarter with respect to which such credit is allowed by such person by the amount of the credit determined for such quarter.

(f) REPORTING.—Each person entitled to premium assistance from gross income.

(1) Special rule in case of employer payment that is not required under this section.

(i) In general.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who pays, with respect to any period of coverage to which paragraph (1)(A) applies, the amount of the premium for such coverage that the individual is otherwise required to pay to the person to whom such payment is payable, such individual shall be treated as an assistance eligible individual who receives premium assistance from gross income for such period.

(ii) Employment tax credit.—Any payment made to the employee under the Employment tax credit Act who fails to make a required payment if it is shown that such failure was due to the anticipation of the credit determined for such quarter, subject to the COBRA continuation provisions contained in—

(i) this title,

(ii) the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974,

(iii) the Public Health Service Act, or

(iv) title 5, United States Code, or

(v) to any extent of any of the coverage is not provided by insurance, the employer maintaining the plan, and

(vi) any group health plan not described in paragraph (1) or (2), the insurer providing the coverage under the group health plan.

(2) Exclusions and Refundability.—

(a) CREDIT IS REFUNDABLE.—If the amount of the credit under subsection (a) exceeds the limitation of paragraph (1) for any calendar quarter, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment that shall be refunded under section 6651(a) and (b).

(b) CREDIT MAY BE ADVANCED.—In anticipation of the credit, including the refundable portion under subparagraph (A), the credit may be advanced, according to forms and instructions provided by the Secretary, up to an amount calculated under subsection (a) through the end of the most recent payroll period in the quarter.

(c) TREATMENT OF DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall waive any penalty under section 6656 for any failure to make a deposit of the tax imposed under section 3221(a), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(a), if the Secretary determines that such failure was due to the anticipation of the credit allowed under this section.

(d) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324 of title 31, United States Code, any amounts due to an employer under this paragraph shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b) or (2) of such section.

(4) special rule in case of employer payment that is not required under this section.

(i) In general.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who pays, with respect to any period of coverage to which paragraph (1)(A) applies, the amount of the premium for such coverage that the individual is otherwise required to pay to the person to whom such payment is payable, such individual shall be treated as an assistance eligible individual who receives premium assistance from gross income for such period.

(ii) Employment tax credit.—Any payment made to the employee under the Employment tax credit Act who fails to make a required payment if it is shown that such failure was due to the anticipation of the credit determined for such quarter, subject to the COBRA continuation provisions contained in—

(i) this title,

(ii) the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974,

(iii) the Public Health Service Act, or

(iv) title 5, United States Code, or

(v) to any extent of any of the coverage is not provided by insurance, the employer maintaining the plan, and

(vi) any group health plan not described in paragraph (1) or (2), the insurer providing the coverage under the group health plan.

(iii) Exclusions and Refundability.—

(a) CREDIT IS REFUNDABLE.—If the amount of the credit under subsection (a) exceeds the limitation of paragraph (1) for any calendar quarter, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment that shall be refunded under section 6651(a) and (b).

(b) CREDIT MAY BE ADVANCED.—In anticipation of the credit, including the refundable portion under subparagraph (A), the credit may be advanced, according to forms and instructions provided by the Secretary, up to an amount calculated under subsection (a) through the end of the most recent payroll period in the quarter.

(c) TREATMENT OF DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall waive any penalty under section 6656 for any failure to make a deposit of the tax imposed under section 3221(a), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(a), if the Secretary determines that such failure was due to the anticipation of the credit allowed under this section.

(d) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324 of title 31, United States Code, any amounts due to an employer under this paragraph shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b) or (2) of such section.

(5) Limitation on reimbursement for furloughed employees.—In the case of an individual who for any month is an assistance eligible individual, the term `individual' includes any governmental entity or Indian tribal government (as defined in section 1396d(c)(1)).

(d) GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term `individual' includes any governmental entity or Indian tribal government (as defined in section 1396d(c)(1)).

(e) Denial of double benefit.—For purposes of chapter 2, the gross income of any person allowed a credit under this section shall be increased for the taxable year which includes the last day of any calendar quarter with respect to which such credit is allowed by such person by the amount of the credit determined for such quarter.

(f) Reporting.—Each person entitled to reimbursement under subsection (a) for any period shall submit such reports (at such time and in such manner) as the Secretary may require to collect:—

(1) an attestation of involuntary termination of employment, reduction of hours, or furloughing, for each assistance eligible individual (not limited to a single period), reduction of hours, or furloughing entitlement to reimbursement is claimed under subsection (a),

(2) a report of the amount of payroll taxes offset under subsection (a) for the reporting period, and

(3) a report containing the TINs of all covered employees, the amount of subsidy reimbursed with respect to each employee, and a designation with respect to each employee as to whether a reimbursement is for coverage of 1 individual or 2 or more individuals.

(g) Regulations.—The Secretary shall issue such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section, including—

(1) the requirement to report information or the establishment of other methods for verifying the correct amounts of reimbursements under this section,

(2) the application of this section to group health plans that are multiemployer plans (as defined in section 3(37) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974),

(3) the allocation of payment of the credit determined under subsection (a), subject to the limitations provided in this section, based on such information as the Secretary shall require,

(4) to provide for the reconciliation of such advance payment with the amount of the credit at the time of filing the return of tax for the applicable quarter or taxable year, and

(5) with respect to the application of the credit to third parties including professional employer organizations, certified professional employer organizations, or agents under section 3064.

(h) Social Security Trust Funds Held Harmless.—There are hereby appropriated to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund established under section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) and the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account established under section 15A(a)(2) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n–1(a)) amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of this section (without regard to this subparagraph). Amounts appropriated by this paragraph shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Trust Fund or Account had this section not been enacted.

(i) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 65 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 6432. Continuation coverage premium assistance.”

(6) Coordination with HCTC.

(A) In General.—Section 35(g)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Continued coverage premium assistance.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who receives premium assistance for continuation coverage under section 2(a)(1) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act for any month during the taxable year, such individual shall not be treated as an eligible individual, a certified individual, or a qualifying family member for purposes of this section or section 7527 with respect to any month.”

(B) Effective Date.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(7) Exclusion of continuation coverage premium assistance—

(A) In general.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 6 of the Internal Revenue Code of
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1966 is amended by inserting after section 139H the following new section:

"SEC. 139I. CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.

"(a) in the case of an assistance eligible individual (as defined in subsection (a)(3) of section 2 of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act), the allowance does not include any premium assistance provided under subsection (a)(1) of such section."

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part III of chapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 139H the following new item:

"Sec. 139I. Continuation coverage premium assistance."

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(18) DEADLINES WITH RESPECT TO NOTICES.—Notwithstanding section 518 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1148) and section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively, may not waive or extend any deadline with respect to the provision of notices described in paragraphs (7), (8), and (9).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—In all matters of interpretation, rules, and operational procedures of this section shall be interpreted broadly for the benefit of workers and their families.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ):
S. 4718. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make fraudulent dealings in firearms and ammunition unlawful, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to stop the fraudulent sales of guns online. While some technology companies have banned selling of firearms and ammunition on their websites, the problem persists.

For example, Facebook banned selling firearms. Nonetheless, between last April and this past June, Facebook reportedly still had to remove 1.3 million pieces of content from its website that violated Facebook’s terms of service related to gun sales.

In order to circumvent the terms of service, sellers are using new tactics, like misrepresenting guns as “stickers,” to get around these restrictions.

An August 24, Wall Street Journal article explored how gun sellers are specifically using this new tactic on Facebook’s Marketplace.

According to the article, sellers are using “a new tactic [that] involves posting purporting to sell stickers, alongside images of gun makers’ logos.”

However, when contacted, these sellers admitted that they’re actually selling guns.

Even more troubling, the article said the recent “boom” in Americans buying guns “has been attributed to the new coronavirus pandemic, civil unrest related to the killing of George Floyd and efforts in some cities to defund the police.”

As a result, there has been a recent spike in failed background checks.

Politico reported in July that: “The number of people trying to buy guns who can’t legally own them has skyrocketed.”

For example, in February, the background check system blocked 9,700 sales.

In March, the system blocked 23,692 gun sales—double the previous month and the previous March.

The bill I’m introducing today addresses this problem by making it illegal for gun sellers to circumvent websites’ terms of service as yet another way to avoid a background check.

It would make it a Federal crime to sell guns on websites like Facebook “by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations of promises.”

Doing so would be a felony with a maximum of five years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

I also want to thank Senator MENENDEZ for joining with me to introduce this legislation.

His efforts to keep technology companies accountable for the proliferation of firearms on their platforms has been vital in addressing the problem.

Our bill today is part of a larger effort that needs to be taken to stop the plague of gun violence hurting this country.

But I hope others will join us in this commonsense effort.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. REED):
S. 4732. A bill to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act. I thank Representative JENIFER WEXTON for working with me on this important piece of legislation, and efforts in some cities to defund the police.

As I stand here today nearly 7 million Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and over 200,000 have died from the virus.

The numbers alone are staggering. But when you hear and read the personal stories of individuals and families who are suffering, it is truly tragic. It makes you mournful that for many of the individuals who died, they did so alone in the absence of their loved ones.

While many things contributed to this massive loss of life, I am here to talk about one in particular: the insidious spread of coronavirus misinformation and disinformation online. This “infodemic” has undercut the efforts of public health officials at every turn, and threatens to prolong the virus’s impact on the health of our people and economy long after a safe and effective vaccine is available.

The online spread of misinformation about public health is nothing new. Claims that the 2014 Ebola epidemic was a form of population control spread across social media. Anti-vaccination groups have long used Facebook and YouTube to share junk science and recruit new members.

However, social media platforms’ response to coronavirus was supposed to be different. Early in the pandemic, the major social media platforms announced new measures to combat misinformation while making sure users had access to accurate, authoritative information about the virus. Facebook added a COVID-19 Information Center to the tops of users’ News Feeds and announced it would remove misinformation that could contribute to imminent physical harm. Twitter verified accounts that promote updates on the pandemic and committed to removing false or misleading content that contradicted information from health authorities. YouTube began directing users who searched for COVID-related information to the WHO or other health authorities and banned false information contradicting health authorities on treatment, prevention, diagnosis, or transmission of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, these measures proved lacking and insufficient. The conspiracy film Pandemic was viewed more than 8 million times across social media platforms, and the sequel was viewed over 100,000 times on YouTube during its first week alone. A study by advocacy group Avaaz found that misinformation about vaccines and other health topics had been viewed an estimated 3.6 billion times on Facebook in the past year—four times more than factual, authoritative content from institutions like the WHO and CDC. The study also found that only 16% of previously fact-checked health misinformation on Facebook carried a warning label.

Spent even a small amount of time on the internet or social media and you will find rampant misinformation and conspiracy theories about COVID-19. Some examples of these falsehoods include: Bill Gates created the virus to include: Bill Gates created the virus to use a vaccine as cover to implant microchips into Americans. No, actually, Dr. Fauci created the coronavirus
to seize political power. You shouldn’t wear a mask to protect against the coronavirus, because wearing a mask actually weakens your immune system. And do not worry if you catch the coronavirus—you can treat it by drinking bleach.

These claims might seem ridiculous, but they have real world consequences. A study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene found that 5,800 people had been hospitalized and at least 40 people died in the first three months of this year alone as a direct result of coronavirus-related misinformation. As recently as August, the Georgia Department of Health and the Texas Poison Control Center had to warn people not to mix bleach to treat COVID. While more Americans regularly wear masks in public, a recent poll found that 15% still do not. And, perhaps most troubling, polls suggest that between 35% and 40% of the U.S. population will not get a COVID vaccine when it is approved.

If we hope to get past the coronavirus and avoid similar public health crises in the future, we must understand where misinformation originates, how it spreads, and strategies to stop it.

This is exactly what the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act will do. It directs the National Science Foundation to partner with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on public and social media platforms. This study will provide critical information on the roles disinformation and misinformation have played in the public response to COVID-19, the sources of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation and the ways it has influenced the public debate; the role social media plays in the disseminating and promoting this disinformation and misinformation; and potential strategies for combating disinformation and disinformation in the future.

This information will not stop the next pandemic from coming. And, it will not force the next Administration to take it seriously and follow the advice of doctors and scientists. But it can give us the knowledge and tools necessary to avoid another infodemic and ensure the American public receives accurate and authoritative information when it is most needed. I therefore encourage my colleagues to support the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 715—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. Cramer, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ERNST, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. HARBARDECKS, Mr. FISCHER, Mr. CORYN, and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 715

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist Minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of the Youth’s Companion;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, for over 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States of America, the country having been established as a union “under God,” and to the country being dedicated to securing “liberty and justice for all”;

Whereas, in 2015, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the Senate of the 116th Congress believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism;

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on the United States flag, to the country having been established as a union “under God,” and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas the Supreme Court overturned Newdow v. United States Congress, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by a student’s public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas the Supreme Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that its previous opinion in Newdow was no longer binding precedent, that case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed, and that Congress, when passing the new version of the Pledge of Allegiance, established a secular purpose for the use of the terms “under God” and, thus, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the revision of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers: Now, therefore, be it

REPRESENTED THAT:

(1) the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and

(2) the Senate strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 716—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2020, AS “MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSENB, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Carlin, Mr. Coons, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. Collins, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 716

Whereas malnutrition is the condition that occurs when a person does not get enough protein, calories, or nutrients;

Whereas the 2020 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic (referred to in this preamble as the “2020 coronavirus pandemic”)—

(1) has resulted in a significant increase in food insecurity, which is linked to malnutrition; and

(2) has nearly doubled food insecurity rates since 2019;

Whereas the 2020 coronavirus pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on children, as 13,900,000 children live in a household characterized by child food insecurity, and the rate of households with food insufficient children in 2020 was more than 5 times the rate of households with food insufficient children in 2019;

Whereas the impact of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic on the chronically ill has forced the examination of chronic disease prevention, especially through nutrient consumption and absorption, as is examined in the 2020–2030 Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research published by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas malnutrition is a significant problem in the United States and around the world, crossing all age, racial, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas infants, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has found that failure to provide key nutrients during early childhood may result in lifelong deficits in brain function;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition affects between 30 and 50 percent of patients admitted to hospitals, and the medical costs of hospitalized patients with malnutrition can be 300 percent more than the medical costs of properly nourished patients;

Whereas, according to the National Blue-ribbon panel reviewing Quality Nutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update, as many as 1/3 of older adults living in the community are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition in older adults alone costs the United States more than $51,300,000,000 each year; and

Whereas the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition established Malnutrition Awareness Week to raise awareness and promote prevention of malnutrition across the lifespan; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 5 through October 9, 2020, as “Malnutrition Awareness Week”;

(2) recognizes registered dietitian nutritionists and other nutrition professionals, health care providers, social workers, advocates, caregivers, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness, treatment, and prevention of malnutrition;

(3)(A) recognizes the importance of existing Federal nutrition programs for their role in combating malnutrition; and

(B) supports emergency funding for those critical Federal nutrition programs for the duration of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic;

(4) recognizes—
(A) the importance of medical nutrition therapy under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

(b) the need for vulnerable populations to have access to nutrition counseling;

(5) recognizes the importance of the innovative research conducted by the National Institutes of Health:

(A) nutrition, dietary patterns, and the human gastrointestinal microbiome; and

(B) how those factors influence the prevention or development of chronic disease throughout the lifespan; and

(6)(A) supports access to a malnutrition screening and assessment; and

(B) encourages the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to evaluate—

(i) the provision of a malnutrition screening and assessment through telehealth during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency; and

(ii) the adoption of malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures.

SENATE RESOLUTION 717—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, AS ‘‘NATIONAL ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY’’, AND RAISING AWARENESS OF ATAXIA, ATAXIA RESEARCH, AND THE SEARCH FOR A CURE

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. Res. 717

Whereas ataxia is a clinical manifestation indicating degeneration or dysfunction of the brain that negatively affects the coordination, precision, and accurate timing of physical movements;

Whereas ataxia can strike individuals of all ages, including children;

Whereas the term ‘‘ataxia’’ is used to classify a group of rare, inherited neurodegenerative diseases including—

(1) ataxia telangiectasia;

(2) episodic ataxia;

(3) Friedrich’s ataxia; and

(4) ataxias caused by mutations in the genes that cause spinocerebellar ataxia;

Whereas there are many known types of genetic ataxia, but the genetic basis for ataxia in some patients is still unknown;

Whereas all inherited ataxias affect fewer than 200,000 individuals and, therefore, are recognized as rare diseases under the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97–414; 96 Stat. 2049);

Whereas some genetic ataxias are inherited in an autosomal dominant manner, while others are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner;

Whereas ataxia symptoms can also be caused by noninherited health conditions and other factors, including stroke, tumor, cerebral palsy, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, alcohol abuse, and certain medications;

Whereas ataxia can present physical, psychological, and financial challenges for patients and their families;

Whereas symptoms and outcomes of ataxia progress at different rates and include—

(1) lack of coordination;

(2) slurred speech;

(3) cardiomyopathy;

(4) scoliosis;

(5) eye movement abnormalities;

(6) difficulty walking;

(7) tremors;

(8) uncoordinated eating and swallowing;

(9) difficulties with other activities that require fine motor skills; and

(10) death;

Whereas most patients with ataxia require the use of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and walkers, to aid in their mobility, and many patients may need physical and occupational therapy;

Whereas there is no treatment or cure approved by the Food and Drug Administration for ataxia;

Whereas clinical research to develop safe and effective treatments for ataxia is ongoing; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the need for greater public awareness of ataxia;

(2) expresses support for the designation of September 25, 2020, as ‘‘National Ataxia Awareness Day’’;

(3) supports the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day, which are—

(A) to raise awareness of the causes and symptoms of ataxia among the general public and health care professionals;

(B) to improve diagnosis of ataxia and access to care for patients affected by ataxia; and

(C) to accelerate ataxia research, including on safe and effective treatment options and, ultimately, a cure;

(4) acknowledges the challenges facing individuals in the United States who have ataxia and the families of those individuals; and

(5) encourages States, territories, and localities to support the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 718—RE-AFFIRMING THE SENATE’S COMMITMENT TO THE ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER CALLED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 718

Whereas the United States is founded on the principle that our Government derives its power from the consent of the governed and that people have the right to change their elected leaders through elections;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development and deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cells played an instrumental role in the United States space program, helping the United States achieve the mission of landing a man on the Moon;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development and deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies; and

Whereas hydrogen, which has an atomic mass of 1.008, is the most abundant element in the universe;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development and deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies; and

Whereas hydrogen, which is a nontoxic gas that can be derived from a variety of domestic and renewable resources, is clean, efficient, safe, and resilient technologies being used for—

(1) stationary and backup power generation; and

(2) zero-emission transportation for light-duty vehicles, industrial vehicles, delivery vans, buses, trucks, trains, military vehicles, marine applications, and aerial vehicles;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cells are being placed in service for continuous and backup power to provide business and energy consumers with reliable power in the event of grid outages; and

Whereas stationary fuel cells can help reduce water use, as compared to traditional power generation technologies;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cells can help reduce water use, as compared to traditional power generation technologies; and

Whereas hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that utilize hydrogen can completely replicate the experience of internal combustion vehicles, including comparable range and refueling times;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are being deployed at logistical hubs and warehouses across the United States and exported to facilities in Europe and Asia;

Whereas hydrogen is a nontoxic gas that can be derived from a variety of domestically available traditional and renewable resources, including solar, wind, biogas, and the abundant supply of natural gas in the United States;
Whereas hydrogen and fuel cells can store energy to help enhance the grid and maximize opportunities to deploy renewable energy; 
Whereas the United States produces and uses approximately 10,000,000 metric tons of hydrogen per year; 
Whereas engineers and safety code and standard professionals have developed consensus-based protocols for safe delivery, handling, and use of hydrogen; and 
Whereas the ingenuity of the people of the United States is a key to paving the way for the future use of hydrogen technologies: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate designates October 8, 2020, as "National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 721—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 18, 2020, AS "NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. CAPITTO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 721

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character; 
Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychosocial well-being of the people of the United States; 
Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including from schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups; 
Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens; 
Whereas the public good is advanced when young individuals are taught the importance of good character; and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace; 
Whereas scholars and educators agree that individuals do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, institutions and individuals that influence youth must make conscientious efforts to help young individuals develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character; 
Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character; 
Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young individuals to play a role in determining the future of the United States; 
Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society; 
Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, truthfulness, and honesty; 
Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences; 
Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character; 
Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young individuals in the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society; 
Whereas many schools in the United States recognize this and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and 
Whereas the establishment of "National Character Counts Week", during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States; Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates the week beginning October 18, 2020, as "National Character Counts Week"; and 
(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups— 
(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and 
(B) to observe National Character Counts Week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 722—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 722

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exonerations of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States; 
Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence; 
Whereas forensic science service providers partner with— 
(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and 
(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety; 
Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing information to investigators and officers of the court; and 
Whereas the fourth week in September 2020 is recognized as "National Forensic Science Week": Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and 
(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for— 
(A) forensic science service providers to— 
(1) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work; 
(2) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science; 
(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and 
(iv) contact local media outlets and invite those groups to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week; 
(B) local policymakers to— 
(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers; 
(ii) formally declare the fourth week of September 2020 to be “National Forensic Science Week” by resolution; 
(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and 
(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; 
(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to— 
(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories; 
(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and 
(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories; 
(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and 

(2) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to— 
(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories; 
(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and 
(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and 
(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 723—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS "CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CASTRO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 723

Whereas campus-related housing fires at colleges in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, other States, and Washington, D.C. have tragically cut the lives of several young individuals short; 
Whereas, since January 2000, at least 175 individuals, including students, parents, and children, have died in campus-related fires; 
Whereas approximately 87 percent of those campus-related fire deaths occurred in off-campus housing; 
Whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus housing; 
Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the occupants had compromised or deactivated fire safety systems; 
Whereas automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire that is necessary for occupants of a building and the fire department to take appropriate action; 
Whereas an automatic fire sprinkler system is a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of building occupants; 
Whereas many college students live in off-campus housing, a fraternity or sorority
Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic presents a severe threat to women who are detained unjustly and who are often housed in overcrowded prisons with limited access to medical care, which can convert unjust prison sentences into death sentences for vulnerable detained women; Whereas the People’s Republic of China has subjected Uyghurs in Xinjiang to mass surveillance, forced labor, forced birth control, and extrajudicial internment, including—

(1) Rahile Dawut, a professor of traditional Uyghur culture; 
(2) Guhelmin, a former website administrator and government employee; and 
(3) Nigar Abubakur, who was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment after inquiring about her mother’s detention.

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has targeted Tibetans for celebrating their heritage, including—

(1) Bonkho Kyi, who was detained for organizing a picnic celebration for His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s 80th birthday; and 
(2) Yeshe Choling, who was sentenced in 2008 to 15 years imprisonment after participating in protests.

Whereas in Iran, human rights defenders have been steadfast in their advocacy despite repeated abuse and arrest by authorities, including currently detained human rights activists.

(1) Nasrin Sotoudeh, who spoke out against the death penalty and laws forcing women to wear hijabs and who is currently on a hunger strike and is in critical condition;

(2) Atena Daemi, a human rights activist who is serving an additional 2 years in prison and facing 74 lashes for participating in a peaceful sit-in protest in Evin prison; and

(3) Narges Mohammadi, vice president of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders, who has experienced severe health conditions and lung disease while in prison and has suffered from worsening COVID-19 symptoms since June 29, 2020; Whereas the People’s Republic of China has suppressed political dissent and vibrant ethnic minority communities; Whereas Burundian authorities arrested Ndirubusa, after a flawed trial, for allegedly attempting to undermine state security; Whereas Saudi Arabian women’s rights and human rights activists Loujain al-Hathloul, Nassima al-Sada, Samar Badawi, Nouf Abualziz, and Maya’a al-Zahrani all remain wrongfully imprisoned; Whereas in the Philippines, Senator Leila de Lima remains unjustly imprisoned for her vocal criticism of extrajudicial killings carried out during President Duterte’s “war on drugs”;

Whereas in Eritrea, political dissident Aster Pisehatehon has been held incommunicado without charge or trial since 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports women who are being unjustly detained around the world;

(2) affirms that a government should never detain its citizens for exercising the rights of freedom of assembly, association, and speech;

(3) calls on governments that are unjustly detaining women for exercising their fundamental rights to immediately and unconditionally release those political prisoners; and

(4) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with foreign governments—

(A) to raise individual cases of women political prisoners; and

(B) press for their immediate release.

SENATE RESOLUTION 725—EStABLISHING THE SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

(S. Res. 725)

Resolved.

SECTION 1. SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

(a) COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Senate the Senate Human Rights Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

(A) serve as a forum for bipartisan discussion of international human rights issues and promotion of internationally recognized human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(B) raise awareness of international human rights violations through regular briefings and hearings; and

(C) collaborate with congressional committees and other congressional entities, the executive branch, human rights entities, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights initiatives within the Senate.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Commission shall not—

(A) have legislative jurisdiction;

(B) have authority to take legislative action on any bill or resolution; or

(C) encroach upon the jurisdiction of any standing, select, or special committee of the Senate.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—Any Senator may be a member of the Commission by submitting a written statement to that effect to the Commission.

(4) CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Two members of the Commission shall be designated to serve as co-chairpersons of the Commission, as follows:
AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2660. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2661. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2662. Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mrs. LOEFLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 1. In addition to amounts provided in section 101, for “Department of Homeland Security—Preparedness, Response, and Recovery—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” there is appropriated $86,600,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the amount provided herein is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(ii)).

SA 2663. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2663 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 8337, supra.

SA 2664. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2664 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 8337, supra.

SA 2665. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2666. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2667. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2668. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2660. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 1. In addition to amounts provided in section 101, for “Department of Homeland Security—Preparedness, Response, and Recovery—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” there is appropriated $86,600,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the amount provided herein is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(ii)).

SA 2661. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 1. In addition to amounts provided in section 101, for “Department of Homeland Security—Preparedness, Response, and Recovery—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” there is appropriated $86,600,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the amount provided herein is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(ii)).

SA 2662. Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mrs. LOEFLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 1. In addition to amounts provided in section 101, for “Department of Homeland Security—Preparedness, Response, and Recovery—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” there is appropriated $86,600,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the amount provided herein is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(ii)).

SA 2663. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2663 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 8337, supra.

SA 2664. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2664 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 8337, supra.
SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) the term ‘‘Commission’’ means the Federal Communications Commission;
(2) the term ‘‘State’’ means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States; and
(3) the term ‘‘State EAS Plan’’ means a State Emergency Alert System Plan, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) PROVISIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall—
(1) establish an SECC for each State; and
(2) issue regulations for the adoption of regulations under subsection (a)(3).

SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) the term ‘‘SECC’’ means a State Emergency Communications Committee;
(2) the term ‘‘State’’ means any State of the United States; and
(3) the term ‘‘State EAS Plan’’ means a State Emergency Alert System Plan, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall—
(1) establish an SECC for each State; and
(2) issue regulations for the adoption of regulations under subsection (a)(3).

SEC. 5. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall—
(1) establish a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator a request for a false alert report; and
(2) issue regulations for the adoption of regulations under subsection (a)(3).

SEC. 6. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MESSAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall—
(1) establish a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator a request for a false alert report; and
(2) issue regulations for the adoption of regulations under subsection (a)(3).

(b) PROVISIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall—
(1) establish an SECC for each State; and
(2) issue regulations for the adoption of regulations under subsection (a)(3).
VETERANS’ CARE QUALITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2372, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill the title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2372) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and agreements between Under Secretary of Health and Non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 719) was agreed to.

The resolutions (S. Res. 720, S. Res. 721, S. Res. 722, and S. Res. 723) were agreed to.

The presambles were agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 719) was printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”

RELIABLE EMERGENCY ALERT DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 721, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 721) to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask that the Schatz substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2699) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

(a) Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020” or “READI Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(2) the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term “Emergency Alert System” means the national public warning system, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and


SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM OFFERINGS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) by striking the second and third sentences; and

(2) by striking “other than an alert issued by the President” and inserting the following: “other than an alert issued by—

(i) the President; or

(ii) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”;

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall adopt regulations to implement the amendment made by subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(A) the term “SECC” means a State Emergency Communications Committee;

(b) S TATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations that—

(i) encourage the chief executive of each State—

(A) to establish an SECC if the State does not have an SECC; or

(B) if the State has an SECC, to review the composition and governance of the SECC;

(ii) provide that—

(A) each SECC, not less frequently than annually, shall—

(i) meet to review and update its State EAS Plan;

(ii) certify to the Commission that the SECC has met as required under clause (i); and

(iii) submit to the Commission an updated State EAS Plan; and

(B) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Commission receives an updated State EAS Plan under subparagraph (A)(iii), the Commission shall—

(i) approve or disapprove the updated State EAS Plan; and

(ii) notify the chief executive of the State of the Commission’s action;

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult with the Administration regarding the adoption of regulations under subsection (b)(3).
SEC. 5. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.
Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator or State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emergency Alert System for the purpose of recording such false alerts and examining their causes.

SEC. 6. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MESSAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.
(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System messages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—
(1) the President;
(2) the Administrator; or
(3) any other entity under specified circumstances as determined by the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator.
(b) Scope of Rulemaking.—Subsection (a)—
(1) shall apply to warnings of national security events, meaning emergencies of national significance, such as a missile threat, terror attack, or other act of war; and
(2) shall not apply to more typical warnings, such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or disaster alert.

SEC. 7. INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.
(a) Study.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to consumers provided through the internet, including through streaming services.
(b) Report.—Not later than 90 days after completing the inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of the inquiry to—
(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
(2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

The bill (S. 2693), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS’ COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2020
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6168 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (H.R. 6168) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2020, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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.

The bill (H.R. 6168) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4675
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 4675) to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, THROUGH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted on Monday, September 28, at 2:45 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, September 28, it next convene at 3 p.m., Tuesday, September 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business being closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 8337; further, that with respect to the cloture motion filed during today’s session of the Senate, the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments be 4 p.m.; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion filed during today’s session ripened at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, AT 2:45 P.M.
Mr. McCONNELL. 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 4:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 28, 2020, at 2:45 p.m.

NOMINATIONS
Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE
The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 335a:

To be brigadier general
COL. SEAN K. TYLER
THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general
COL. PAUL S. LYMAN
IN THE ARMY
The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 335a:

To be brigadier general
COL. GUY M. JONES
COL. CHARLES B. PARKER
CONFIRMATION
Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 24, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY
RODERICK C. YOUNG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.
IN MEMORY OF ROSLYN (LYNNE) HOLTZMAN NIERENBERG
HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Madam Speaker, Roslyn (Lynne) Holtzman Nierenberg died on August 25, 2020 after a long decline. She and her identical twin sister Sara (Sue) were born at home 2 months early on November 18, 1928. Dr. Richardson, who delivered them, visited daily for months until he was sure they would survive. Their father, Aaron Holtzman, came to America from Belarus in 1920. Their mother, Gertrude Lomonik Holtzman, was born on the lower East side. Her parents were from Ukraine. Lynne and Sue’s parents initially had a general store in Norwood, NJ. They later had a men’s shop in Bergenfield, NJ. Lynne and Sue became the public health nurse in Bergenfield, NJ. They have two surviving younger sisters, Myra (Mikey) and Carol Ann (Candy), and one sister Cynthia, who died in infancy. Lynne and Sue graduated from New Jersey College for Women (NJC) at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ in 1950. (NJC was called Glass College.)

Lynne met Theodore (Ted) Nierenberg in the summer of 1947 when they were counselors at Lakeside Pines, a girls’ sleep away camp. This was after he served as an officer in the Navy in the South Pacific in World War II. They married in 1950 after Lynne graduated from college. They lived in Queens, NY initially, while Lynne did editorial work and Ted worked in the insurance industry. They bought their first house in Teaneck, NJ shortly before their first child, David, was born in 1953. They moved to a second house in Teaneck in 1960 before their fourth child was born. Lynne spent many busy years raising four children, being a member of Temple Emanuel, active and member of many PTA’s, and doing volunteer work at Englewood Hospital. She was a wonderful mother. She encouraged her children to read, study music, get involved in extracurricular activities, and do volunteer work.

Lynne had always wanted to be a nurse. In 1968, the first year that Englewood Hospital admitted older students, Lynne started nursing school. She graduated two years later, first in her class. Lynne initially worked as a psychiatric nurse in the inpatient psychiatric unit at Englewood Hospital. She then worked at an outpatient mental health center in Dumont, now called Vantage Mental Health Care. She then taught psychiatric nursing at Holy Name School of Nursing. While at Holy Name, she earned a masters degree in counseling. She then became the psychiatric nursing supervisor at Englewood Hospital. (The job also entailed doing psychiatric continuing education for the nursing staff and serving as a liaison when patients with psychiatric problems needed to be hospitalized or the medical or surgical floors.) Lynne briefly worked in psychiatric medication research at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, NY. Lynne then worked at the outpatient mental health center at Miseracordia Hospital (now Our Lady of Mercy), in the Bronx, NY. She functioned there like a psychiatric nurse-practitioner. This was her most challenging and satisfying job because it pulled together all of her skills. She retired in 1993.

Lynne also did volunteer work. For about 13 years, she ran a support group through the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Adjustment Program. She later ran the Survivors after Suicide support group for about 13 years at Vantage Mental Health Care. She also ran a support group for women who had premature babies.

She was the devoted mother of David Nierenberg (married to Patricia) of Camas, Washington; Susan Nierenberg (married to Peter Goldman) of Teaneck; Amy Knitzer (married to Jonathan Perlstein) of Montclair, NJ; and Ellen Nierenberg, currently living in Tromso, Norway. She LOVED being a grandmother: to David and Patricia’s children: Elodie, Jacob, and Albinia; Susan and Peter’s daughter Emily; Amy and Jonathan’s sons Dan and Zack; and Ellen’s children: Johanne, Solveig, and Daniel.

Unfortunately, Lynne developed Alzheimer’s Disease. After Ted had a stroke in 2009, Lynne and Ted moved in 2010 into Van Dyk Park Place, an assisted living facility in Hawthorne, NJ. Ted died in 2011.

Lynne is survived and missed by: her sisters Mikey and Candy; her children David, Susan, Amy, and Ellen, her 9 grandchildren, and 14 nieces and nephews.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICK BEAUREGARD
HON. JAMIE RASKIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Patrick Beauregard, who passed away on September 6, 2020 at the age of 29 after battling stage IV young-onset colorectal cancer. Patrick will be remembered as a compassionate, loyal and thoughtful man, and I had the good fortune of spending time with him during his grueling battle against the disease.

Patrick Beauregard was born in Massachusetts and went to college in Rhode Island. Following his college graduation, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of serving in the military. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in April 2013 and served as an Intelligence Analyst until he was honorably discharged in July 2019. Throughout his service, Patrick received commendations for his exceptional leadership, initiative, loyalty and dedication to duty.

During his grueling 40 rounds of treatment—something his Marine training helped him endure—I had the honor of meeting with Patrick to discuss how Congress can contribute to the fight against colorectal cancer. He was passionate about advocating for greater research funds and generating national awareness about young-onset colorectal cancer. Although Patrick eventually lost his years long struggle with the disease, his advocacy work will continue to benefit and give hope to countless colorectal cancer patients and their families for years to come.

Throughout his 3-year battle, Patrick remained remarkably positive. Prior to his passing, Patrick was able to accomplish his final goal of meeting his son, Noah Patrick, born on July 10, 2020. Patrick is survived by his wife, Amanda, and by Noah. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the precious and irreplaceable life of Patrick Beauregard. He will be missed dearly.

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OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF PITNEY BOWES
HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Centennial of Pitney Bowes. In 1920, Arthur Pitney and Walter Bowes put their ideas together to create a business, Pitney Bowes. Arthur being the inventor and Walter being the promoter, together they created the Pitney Bowes Postage Meter and it was officially approved on September 1st by Congress to be used by the United States Postal Service. Twenty years later during World War II, a Pitney Bowes plant in Connecticut was almost entirely run by women.

Following the war, nearly half of the men employed were World War II veterans. As the years passed, the company went on to further create inventions, boost productivity, drive precision, and decrease cost of mailing. Pitney Bowes is a living legacy of always innovating, adapting, and striving together to do better.

Since day one, they founded Pitney Bowes on innovation and powering commerce, seeking to do the right thing, the right way for customers, their people, and the world around us. Today, one hundred years later, they still abide by the same values that they began on.

Technology is ever changing and evolving, it is remarkable to see the Pitney Bowes company flourish within this industry.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in celebration of the Centennial of Pitney Bowes. One hundred years is a monumental milestone. I want to thank Pitney Bowes for their dedication, commitment, and services to the people of Virginia’s First District and to Americans across the nation.

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in <this typeface> indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
HONORING CAPTAIN SCOTT T. FARR'S TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JOE COURTNEY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Navy Captain Scott “Topper” Farr for his twenty-eight years of faithful service to our country.

In May of 1992, CAPT Farr was commissioned as an Ensign and proceeded to Pensa- cola, FL for flight training. After earning his gold wings, he flew both the EA-6B Prowler and EA-18G Growler jets operationally, prac- ticing his specialty of electronic warfare. His responsibility was protecting U.S. and coalition aircraft from the threat of surface to air mis- siles, as well as soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Marines on the ground from improvised explo- sive devices. His dedicated service through eight deployments, 3,409 flight hours and 669 carrier landings on eight different aircraft car- riers was responsible for countless American and Allies’ lives saved during Operations Southern Watch, U.S.-led Enduring Free- dom, Iraqi Freedom and Unified Protector.

In addition to commanding Electronic Attack Squadron 140 and the Electronic Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, his ultimate assignment was as the Director of the Navy’s House Liai- son Office. In this job, he both represented the Navy to most House members and oversaw the numerous bi-partisan CODELs, the U.S. House and Senate members to visit Australia since World War II. CAPT Farr’s role as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office, was as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office, the U.S. House and Senate members to visit Australia since World War II. CAPT Farr’s role as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office, was as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office, the U.S. House and Senate members to visit Australia since World War II. CAPT Farr’s role as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office, was as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office, the U.S. House and Senate members to visit Australia since World War II. CAPT Farr’s role as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office, was as the Director of the Navy’s House Liaison Office.

Two events that highlight Topper’s work ethic and professionalism immediately come to my mind. The first was an extremely successful bi-partisan CODEL across Australia from Perth to Alice Springs to Sydney. Topper han- dled all of the logistical and diplomatic tasks flawlessly in what the Australian embassy noted was the largest group of House and Senate members to visit Australia since World War II. Second was an anti-submarine fo- cused CODEL of NATO countries. During both of these CODELS, it wasn’t CAPT Farr’s super- vision, planning or execution skills that most im- pressed me and my colleagues. It was his ability to substantively answer questions from members on a wide range of military issues. This knowledge was no doubt based on his impressive record of service and simply stat- ed, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Navy are better off due to his service.

As CAPT Farr embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States Navy which reached the Office of Legislative Affairs. I would like to send him, his wife Melanie, daughter Kathleen and one of a kind dog Gracie, my very best wishes for continued success in his future.

ONGOING TRANSATLANTIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight my recent efforts to engage with our allies across Europe to address the current political turmoil in Belarus and seek a way forward.

On September 23, I joined a video call of the leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Coopera- tion in Europe (OSCE PA), where I serve as Chairman of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security. Joining us for the discussion were the Head of the Belarusian delegation to the OSCE PA, Mr. Andrei Savinykh, and the leader of the Belarusian opposition and former presidential candidate, Ms. Svetlana Tikhanovskaya.

Ms. Tikhanovskaya shared with us the long struggle of the people of Belarus for their rights under President Alexander Lukashenko’s 26-year authoritarian rule. The fraudulent presidential election on August 9, in which Lukashenko claimed “victories” with over 80 percent of the vote, led thousands of Belarusians across the country to come out into the streets. They risk physical harm and imprisonment to demand free and fair elections and the release of political prisoners. Unfortu- nately, these individuals have been met with brute force from the authoritarian regime. They continue to injure and detain protestors, journalists, and even bystanders on a massive scale. Instances of torture in detention have been reported, and some have been killed. Lukashenko is clearly afraid for his political fu- ture. In another desperate move, he recently held an illegal, early “inauguration” in an at- tempt to consolidate his illegitimate power.

I strongly condemned Lukashenko’s violent repression of Belarusians and expressed soli- darity for their desire to choose their own lead- ership in a democratic and transparent man- ner and to exercise their fundamental free- doms without fear of violent repercussions or harassment. During our meeting, I noted two particular cases that we in the United States are watching closely. First, U.S. citizen Vitali Shkliarov, who was in Belarus visiting family, was unjustly detained in July and languishes in a Belarusian prison since the end of July. We are concerned for his welfare and I called for his release.

I also mentioned that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Minsk-Mogilev, Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, has been denied re-entry to Belarus after a visit abroad, even though he is a citizen. He has openly criticized the government’s use of violence against peaceful peo- ple, including the detention of priests and cler- gy, and we fear that this too is a political act on the part of Lukashenko and an infringement on religious freedom.

The future of Belarus belongs to its people, and as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has emphasized, this path should be “free from outside interference.” Indeed, my colleagues in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly under- stand that it is not our place to choose the leadership of Belarus, but to use the unique role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as a representative body to foster authentic dia- logue, prevent and resolve conflict, and hold each other accountable. As an OSCE partici- pating State, Belarus has an obligation to abide by the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, including those on human rights and funda- mental freedoms. I am pleased that 17 par- ticipating States of the OSCE, including the United States, have invoked the Moscow Mechanism, which will establish a mission of independent experts to look into the par- ticularly serious threats to the fulfillment of human rights commitments in Belarus. The report that this mission issues will hopefully offer us great- er insight into the situation in Belarus and rec- ommendations for future actions.

It is a privilege, through the U.S. Helsinki Commission, to represent the United States Congress in the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. The Parliamentary Assembly pro- vides Members of Congress with a unique, bi- partisan opportunity to work with our friends and allies to help resolve pressing global issues while promoting our shared values. Be- cause the Parliamentary Assembly includes representatives of Belarus and our European allies, it is uniquely suited to address the human rights and security implications of the moment in Belarus.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in calling for an end to violence and mass deten- tion in Belarus and recognizing the impor- tance of continued Congressional engagement with the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BILL VERNER

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognition of Bill Verner, Executive Vice President of the Georgia EMC. After decades of dedicated service, Bill is retiring from his position at the Georgia EMC on the 40th anniversary of beginning his career in the electric cooperative industry.

Bill began his career with Carroll EMC while working his way through college. He joined the Georgia EMC in 1984, began working in gov- ernment relations in 1986, and was appointed to lead Georgia EMC’s efforts in the state legislature and regulatory arena in 1996.

His strong beliefs in the cooperative’s prin- ciples are evident in his years of dedicated service representing EMC’s interests in the Georgia General Assembly, Congress, and state and federal agencies. Having worked with Bill personally, I have seen firsthand the level of expertise and commitment that has made him an invaluable asset to the coopera- tive. His hard work, leadership, and deep un- derstanding of America’s most successful pub- lic-private partnership, the electric cooperative business model, has benefitted EMC members throughout Georgia.

Bill’s career is marked by his many contribu- tions to Georgia EMC and the 41 EMCs across the state. His tenure over the past four decades with Georgia EMC marked him one of the longest-serving employees in the associa- tion’s eighty-year history. In today’s age, it is a rarity to find the combination of character, ability, and commitment that Bill exemplifies.
On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District of Georgia, I would like to thank Bill for his service to our state’s electric cooperatives and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CAROL BRICK-TURIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the remarkable career of Carol Brick-Turin. After 12 years, Ms. Brick-Turin is retiring as the Executive Director of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation’s Jewish Community Relations Council.

Carol originally moved to Washington, D.C. to join the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she worked on public policy issues for more than a decade. A graduate of Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics, she was recruited to join the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and served as a diplomat in Brussels, Belgium in the U.S. Mission to the European Community. She was the first married female to serve as an Agricultural Attaché in the history of FAS.

Carol attended the Foreign Service Institute, completed a study program taught by faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary and attended the University of Tel-Aviv in 1973—both before and after the Yom Kippur War. Having raised her children as Zionists, she now has three grandchildren who were born in Jerusalem, in addition to her two granddaughters in Miami.

As the JCRC’s Executive Director Carol has adroitly mobilized and engaged Miami’s Jewish community on many levels. She has led our citizen activists in building relationships with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, key to the success of the pro-Israel movement and the national agenda supported by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. We have worked together to address a multitude of issues facing our community—from the scourge of anti-Semitism and senseless gun violence plaguing our schools and places of worship to ensuring we maintain our strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

Carol’s commitment to Miami’s Jewish community and the state of Israel is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my very good friend. I will miss her guidance and wisdom, but our loss is her husband Alan and her family’s gain. I wish her a hearty Mazel Tov on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work.

HONORING BARBARA TURK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Nat O’Day, a North Texan and military veteran, as he celebrates his 90th birthday on September 27, 2020.

Nat spent 20 years of his life serving the U.S. Army achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served overseas in South Vietnam, Korea, Japan, and Germany. Nat played a pivotal role in the modernization of our nation’s military as he operated a communications system at over 52 sites across the world and tested flight equipment that is now used as today’s standard. During his military service, Nat married the love of his life, Lynn, and they enjoyed over 60 years of marriage together. They raised three wonderful children, Robin O’Day Dettmer, Steve Ray O’Day, and Tim James O’Day.

Nat has dedicated his life to our nation and his community in Fort Worth, Texas. Following his retirement from the Army, Nat worked for the City of Fort Worth for over 25 years. He was a devoted volunteer, spending over 20 years and thousands of hours volunteering at the Fort Worth Symphony, the Van Cliburn Foundation, and Bass Performance Hall, where he and Lynn shared their love of music. He also volunteered every Tuesday for 20 years at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport helping travelers navigate the airport. Nat also dedicated his time to the Cook Children’s Hospital, where he was rightfully named Volunteer of the Year. Nat is committed to helping the people of 12th District of Texas, and his business cards that read “Volunteer Extraordinaire” sum up his dedication and devotion to North Texas.

I had the great honor and pleasure of having Nat as an honored civic affairs and as the Chairman of my military academy nomination board. I could not have done it without Nat’s commitment and enthusiasm. I am grateful to know and celebrate Nat O’Day. Our Nation and my district wouldn’t be the same without his decades of selflessness and dedication.

On behalf of the 12th District of Texas, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Nat on his very special birthday.

HONORING THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia. The City of Falls Church has recently been ranked the 3rd healthiest community in the United States in 2020 according to the U.S. News Healthiest Communities Report.

Falls Church received nearly a perfect score for measurements including population health, education, and a perfect score for local economy—the highest score for economic health in the nation.

Settled more than 300 years ago and situated less than 10 miles from the Capitol, Falls Church has had a front row seat to many of the nation’s most historic moments. Tradition holds that a copy of the Declaration of Independence was brought to the steps of The Falls Church, the city’s namesake, in 1776.

Please join me in honoring the City of Falls Church for achieving such a monumental accomplishment.

HONORING MR. NAT O’DAY BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Nat O’Day, a North Texan and military veteran, as he celebrates his 90th birthday on September 27, 2020. Nat spent 20 years of his life serving the U.S. Army achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served overseas in South Vietnam, Korea, Japan, and Germany.

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On behalf of the 12th District of Texas, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Nat on his very special birthday.
connecting veterans with meaningful employment by hosting job fairs. On behalf of myself and the veterans in our region, I thank you for your continued support and efforts to ensure our veterans get to experience the American dream they fought to protect.

To the Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the centennial of Disabled American Veterans. I thank DAV, for an outstanding first 100 years, and let us look forward to another prosperous 100 years.

HONORING DR. PATRICK WELCH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patrick Welch, a Vietnam War veteran who made it his mission in life to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Dr. Welch enlisted into the United States Marine Corps at the young age of 17 and served in combat as an Infantry Squad Leader with the 3rd Division during the Vietnam War. He was severely injured on the battlefield and immobilized for two years. For his service, Dr. Welch was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, the National Service Defense Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross.

Like many veterans, when Dr. Welch returned to Buffalo, New York from the war he was struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He quickly realized that many of his fellow comrades were facing the same challenges he was. It was at that point that he decided to dedicate his life to raising awareness about veterans’ mental health and he worked to provide avenues in which they could seek treatment. In doing so he substantially altered the conversation about the mental health of veterans in Western New York. He promoted the idea that mental health isn’t a taboo subject but rather a reality for a number of veterans returning home. He often says “War doesn’t break us, war changes us.”

Those who know Dr. Welch can attest to the fact that he is a great leader, educator, and a speaker who uses his skills to advocate for veterans. Dr. Welch is an active member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, was the Director of Erie County Veterans Services, and the Director of the Center for Veterans and Veteran Family Services at Daemen College. His most treasured role was helping individual veterans as a Mentor in the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court. Dr. Welch currently serves as the Chair of the Community Veterans Engagement Board of Western New York. He always works closely with our office to advocate for policies and services that benefit veterans. Dr. Welch has recently joined our Service Academy Advisory Committee to assist those following in his footsteps to serve our nation. He has built relationships with many veterans in Western New York behind the scenes. In doing so he has set a solid precedent for how each one of us should treat veterans returning home after defending our freedom.

Dr. Welch’s extensive work has laid solid groundwork for the next generation of leaders and advocates. His openness about his personal struggles has fostered an atmosphere within our community where veterans feel like they have a safe place to be supported and heal. I have closely worked with Dr. Patrick Welch for many years so it is my privilege today to personally thank him for his service and friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 196; YEA on Roll Call No. 197; and NAY on Roll Call No. 198.

IN HONOR OF REP. EDWARD BUTLER

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Ed Butler, who is retiring after twelve years of service to the citizens of New Hampshire. Rep. Butler served Carroll County District 7 for six terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Rep. Butler, a fierce leader, has dedicated his career to championing progressive and inclusive legislation including defending LG BTQ+ rights, advocating for accessible health coverage, and supporting local small businesses. After years of faithful service and an unwavering commitment to furthering the cause of equality and justice for all Granite Staters, Rep. Butler made the difficult decision to forego re-election in order to dedicate his time to helping his husband with the operation of their small business, the Notchland Inn, which has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rep. Butler is known amongst colleagues as a hard worker who goes the extra mile to advocate for the betterment of his district. He has served as an example to many of what it means to be an effective and compassionate lawmaker. He approaches his work with goodwill, grace, and fervor. His embodiment of these values serves as a model to other representatives and will continue to be a guiding principle in the General Court for decades to come.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I want to thank Rep. Butler and his family for their years of dedication to our state. I congratulate him on his accomplished law-making career, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GIANA HUTTON

HON. JAMIE RASKIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent from Silver Spring, Giana Hutton, who passed away unexpectedly on September 15, 2020. Originally from the south suburbs of Chicago, Giana graduated from Williams College with a Bachelor of Arts in History. She will be sharply missed.

Giana was deeply committed to empowering young people and fighting for the rights of students. While in her junior and senior years at Williams, Giana interned with Senator Ronald Burrus as an Education & Judiciary Intern. Following graduation, she was selected as a Junior Associate Fellow in the Urban Education Leadership Program, where she worked with the District of Columbia Public Schools in the Office of Special Education to find potential community stakeholders to support independent work habits for students with emotional and learning disabilities.

Giana later returned to school to receive her Master of Science in Public Policy and Management. During her second year, Giana interned with Reading is FUNdamental Pittsburg, serving as its Outreach and Development Intern. During her time with RIF Pittsburg, Giana was able to further work on her goal of reducing the achievement gap across socio-economic classes by raising money for literacy programs which provided students with greater access to books, activity-based projects to focus on the joys of reading and materials aimed at developing reading and comprehension skills.

In 2013, Giana was selected as a recipient of the Public Service Career Opportunities Program Award. Through this prestigious award, Giana got a job as a Program Analyst working on federal grants to support low-income students in the charter and D.C. Public Schools. Through her job, Giana supported schools in providing students with supplemental learning opportunities.

Giana was a beloved sister of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, an organization she joined because of its commitment to education. Through her involvement in Alpha Kappa Alpha, Giana was proud to be a part of a community in which she felt empowered and could inspire others.

Giana will be remembered for her commitment to empowering others and her dedication to providing educational opportunities for young people. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the remarkable life of my constituent, Giana Hutton.

COMMENORATING THE SPRING CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

HON. BEN CLINE
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a unique public-private partnership that has yielded big conservation dividends for my home state of Virginia.

Ten years ago, a dedicated group of landowners and partners gathered in a small Shenandoah Valley community to launch a unique initiative designed to improve local water quality through the power of Conservation Collaborations. In 2013, the Smith Creek was one of three “showcase watersheds” established by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of a
new strategy to address bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment contamination in Smith Creek. These “showcases” were established to demonstrate what can be accomplished when communities come together to solve natural resource problems in a targeted area. Smith Creek joined Maryland’s Upper Chester River and Conewago Creek in Pennsylvania to test this focused approach to stewardship on a watershed level.

The Smith Creek Watershed presents some unique conservation challenges. Karst topography dominates the Shenandoah Valley with hundreds of known sinkholes and over 35 caves that complicate the conservation effort. It is also home to 75 percent of Virginia’s poultry operations and approximately 46 percent of its dairy.

Local groups and organizations partnered to conduct extensive outreach over the past 10 years, personally contacting area producers and landowners to increase awareness of assistance available to implement water quality practices on local farms. As dedicated stewards of the land, local farmers and landowners worked diligently to improve water quality while continuing to ensure our agricultural economy in the Shenandoah Valley thrived. Smith Creek agricultural producers have now treated more than 115 acres through Farm Bill programs like CSP, EQIP and the associated National Water Quality Initiative—over 640 total acres in the last two years alone.

Today, we recognize and salute the dedicated conservationists and stewards of the land who have so successfully collaborated to preserve the farming heritage, water quality and scenic beauty of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley and the Chesapeake Bay.

MOUNTAIN NEWS CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL COOK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Mountain News, a local newspaper in Lake Arrowhead, California. The Mountain News will celebrate its anniversary in October 1920. Over the last century, it has served as a voice for mountain residents in Lake Arrowhead and across the San Bernardino Mountains. From public interest stories, to local crime and public safety news, to emergency preparedness tips during wildfire season, the Mountain News has been committed to providing quality news for its readers. The hard work and unrelenting dedication of its staff are the bedrock for the success the Mountain News has enjoyed. Its mission of providing quality journalism to the local community has been incredibly successful, and I am certain we will see that success continue for another century.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the staff, both past and present, of the Mountain News. This is a momentous occasion, and their hard work has informed and improved the lives of their fellow Lake Arrowhead residents. I hope that the next century is just as successful for the Mountain News as the previous one.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

HON. DINA TITUS
OF NEVADA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Child Passenger Safety Week (September 20–26, 2020) to recognize the great strides we have made protecting our most vulnerable passengers: our children. We have moved from a high in the 1970s of over 6,000 deaths annually of children under 14 to fewer than 1,300 such deaths in 2018. While one death is too many, this is a monumental shift. Much of our progress is the result of child passenger safety (CPS) efforts to secure children correctly in car seats that meet federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS) and are installed correctly in vehicles during every ride.

Today, motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of injuries and fatalities and there is more we can do to protect children. The more than 43,000 nationally certified child passenger safety technicians (CPSTs) are a great resource for new parents and caregivers who need help with the proper installation and use of car seats. Their expertise in choosing and installing car seats has saved lives, and there is a new platform to help them do this important job even better.

Over the past several years, the National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF) was created through a partnership of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), AAA Northern California, Nevada, and Utah, the National Child Passenger Safety Board (NCPSB), Tennessee Tech University’s icube, and Westat. The NDCF, managed by the National Safety Council, is the first national electronic car seat check data collection tool that is available to all nationally certified child passenger safety technicians in the United States.

In addition to streamlining the collection of national data, this information can assist state child passenger safety coordinators in considering where services may need to be expanded to meet the needs of all families, including those in rural and underserved communities. In fact, this data can help support the provisions I authored in H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, to support expansion of CPST training for underserved populations.

Highway Safety Offices can tailor state marketing campaigns that address child passenger safety and include information about the highest forms of car seat misuse in their state. This data will lend insight into trends and patterns regarding misuse of car seats and vehicle compatibility. This information has the potential to influence engineering and design of car seats and vehicles and subsequently increase safety for vehicle occupants.

The NDCF has been in development for almost four years through an iterative process and continuous testing. Every state in the United States has used CPSTs and improved national CPS. I encourage my colleagues to recognize the hard work of CPSTs in their communities who give their time and talent for their labor of love—keeping children safe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRYAN STEIL
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 194 and YEA on Roll Call No. 195.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BAILEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Bailey, Kentucky’s longest-serving television news anchor and a member of the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, as she retires from WKYT-TV after more than four decades of dedication to broadcast journalism.

As a native of Harlan, Kentucky, Barbara has been an inspiration to women and men from the mountains of southern and eastern Kentucky for many years. She has always worn her Appalachian heritage with great pride, first as a reporter for the Harlan Daily Enterprise, and continuing to display her passion for people in the mountains throughout her broadcast career at WKYT. Barbara gave a voice to individuals who may have never been heard otherwise, and shared stories that we, as Kentuckians, needed to be informed about. Thanks to her insight on issues in Kentucky’s Appalachian region, WKYT has been a news source for families and individuals beyond the Lexington metro area, extending into the living rooms of families across southern and eastern Kentucky. It is Barbara’s southern-eastern Kentucky charm that won over the hearts of countless viewers, and likewise, her mountain moxie that influenced her journalistic integrity and earned the respect and trust of the people of this Commonwealth.

Given a platform that few others are ever granted, Barbara has always been a generous steward of her talents and her personal time, volunteering for charity fundraisers throughout the state and serving on the board of various civic groups and organizations. Most recently, we joined together for the benefit of the Cawood Ledford Boys and Girls Club in Harlan County to expand their reach to more students and expand their facilities.

I was elected to my first term in office the same year that Barbara anchored her first
Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Clint Drury, Executive Director, West Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council on being awarded the 2020 George Meany Award.

This prestigious award recognizes Clint for his significant contribution to the youth of their communities by volunteering in the programs of the Boy Scouts of America, The George Meany Award was named after the AFL-CIO's first president, who gave strong support to Scouting over the years. In recognition of their contributions to America's future, the AFL-CIO Executive Council then established the George Meany Award, Clint's community involvement this year ranges from the Children's Hospital of Illinois Annual Telethon, Heart of Illinois United Way, Illinois Prevailing Wage Council, Better Build, Labor Day Parade, and too many more examples to count Clint has dedicated his time and energy to his community, leading by example to strive and improve the lives of those around him.

Clint is a 22-year member of the Laborers' Local 231 in Pekin, Illinois. As the spokesman for the construction professionals of central Illinois, Clint's role could be best described as the advocate and protectors of the working class. The lives of those around him.

HON. DARIN LaHOOD OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, September 24, 2020

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Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5843–S5882

Measures Introduced: Fifty-eight bills and eleven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4681–4738, and S. Res. 715–725. Pages S5863–65

Measures Reported:

S. 4462, to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–269)

S. 2912, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land located in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community. (S. Rept. No. 116–270)

S. 3948, to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children. (S. Rept. No. 116–271) Page S5863

Measures Passed:

Pledge of Allegiance: Senate agreed to S. Res. 715, expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance. Pages S5846–47

U.S. SAFE WEB Act Extension: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4779, to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and the bill was then passed. Pages S5851–52

Peaceful Transfer of Power: Senate agreed to S. Res. 718, reaffirming the Senate’s commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States. Pages S5855–58

National Voter Registration Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 719, recognizing September 22, 2020, as “National Voter Registration Day”. Page S5881


National Character Counts Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 721, designating the week beginning October 18, 2020, as “National Character Counts Week”. Page S5881

National Forensic Science Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 722, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week. Page S5881

Campus Fire Safety Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 723, designating September 2020 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”.

Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act: Senate passed H.R. 2372, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services. Page S5881

Veterans’ Care Quality Transparency Act: Senate passed H.R. 2372, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services. Page S5881

READI Act: Senate passed S. 2693, to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: McConnell (for Schatz) Amendment No. 2669, in the nature of a substitute. Pages S5881–82

Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6168, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2020, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and the bill was then passed. Page S5882

D845
Measures Considered:

Continuing Appropriations Act and Other Extensions Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pending:

McConnell Amendment No. 2663, to change the enactment date.

McConnell Amendment No. 2664, of a perfecting nature.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 24, 2020, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

By 93 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 195), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the bill; that with respect to the cloture motion filed on Thursday, September 24, 2020, the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments be 4 p.m., on Tuesday, September 29, 2020; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motion filed on Thursday, September 24, 2020, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 93 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 194), Rod-erick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Executive Communications:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—195)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:22 p.m., until 2:45 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2020. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5882.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

QUARTERLY CARES ACT REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the quarterly CARES Act report to Congress, after receiving testimony from Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury; and Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

FIRSTNET

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet concluded a hearing to examine an evaluation of FirstNet’s progress, after receiving testimony from Edward Parkinson, Executive Director, First Responder Network Authority, Department of Commerce; Karima Holmes, Office of Unified Communications, Washington, D.C.; Jason Porter, AT&T Inc., Dallas, Texas; and Captain Tony Harrison, Pennington County Sheriff’s Office, Rapid City, South Dakota.

U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States policy in a changing Middle East, after receiving testimony from David Hale, Under Secretary, and Elliott Abrams, Special Representative, both of the Department of State.

THREATS TO THE HOMELAND

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine threats to the homeland, after receiving testimony from Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Christopher Miller, Director, National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and
Ken Cuccinelli, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

WOMEN AND RETIREMENT
Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine women and retirement, focusing on unique challenges and opportunities to pave a brighter future, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 33 public bills, H.R. 8366–8398; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 95; and H. Res. 1148–1151 were introduced. Pages H4957–58
Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4959–60
Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:
H.R. 5126, to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–531);
H.R. 2075, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize school-based health centers, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–532);
H.R. 8225, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain types of fraud in the provision of immigration services, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–533);
H.R. 8124, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for transportation and subsistence for criminal justice defendants, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–534);
H.R. 6813, to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (H. Rept. 116–535);
H.R. 7718, to address the health needs of incarcerated women related to pregnancy and childbirth, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–536); and
H.R. 8134, to support the Consumer Product Safety Commission's capability to protect consumers from unsafe consumer products, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–537). Pages H4956–57
Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H4887

Recess: The House recessed at 10:28 a.m. and reconvened at 11 a.m. Page H4896

Expanding Access to Sustainable Energy Act: The House passed H.R. 4447, to establish an energy storage and microgrid program and technical assistance program, by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 185 nays, Roll No. 206. Consideration began yesterday, September 23rd. Pages H4898–H4949

Rejected the Lucas motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 193 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 205. Pages H4947–49

Agreed to:
DeGette en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–528: Barragán (No. 2) that establishes a $1 billion dollar a year Climate Smart Ports program at EPA to provide grants for ports and port users to invest in zero emissions technology for cargo handling equipment, drayage trucks, and harbor craft; program also supports the development of shore power and clean energy microgrids at ports; Barragán (No. 3) that increases the authorized appropriation by $40,000,000 for FY 2021–2030 for the EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, and Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant programs I and II; Barragán (No. 4) that increases authorized appropriation levels by $100,000,000 for the Weatherization Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2021–2025; Barragán (No. 5) that establishes a climate justice grants program, administered by EPA, to provide local government and community nonprofit grants to environmental justice communities for climate mitigation and climate adaptation projects; authorized appropriation is $1 billion a year for FY 2021–2025; and Barragán (No. 6) that increases
the authorized appropriation by $50 million a year for FY 2021–2025 for the low-income solar grant program in Subtitle D; Blunt Rochester (No. 7) that funds clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades to critical infrastructure, like schools and hospitals; Brown (No. 8) that prohibits the use of certain hazardous substances linked to respiratory sensitization and asthma in thermal insulating materials for low income housing weatherization; Burgess (No. 9) that requires the Secretary of Energy to certify that this legislation will not reduce the United States’ energy security or energy independence; Burgess (No. 10) that requires the Secretary of Energy to certify that this legislation will not increase electric rates or gasoline prices; Burgess (No. 11) that requires the Secretary of Interior to report to Congress on the use of forced labor practices to extract critical minerals from foreign sources for export to the United States; Clarke (NY) (No. 16) that establishes a pilot program within the Environmental Protection Agency to award funds in the form of grants, rebates and low-cost revolving loans to projects that either (1) replace an existing diesel-powered transport refrigeration unit in a heavy-duty vehicle with an electric unit; or (2) purchase and install shore power infrastructure or related equipment that enables electric transport refrigeration units to operate on grid electricity at places where refrigerated heavy-duty vehicles congregate, such as distribution centers; Cleaver (No. 17) that directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program for tree planting to reduce residential energy consumption; the Secretary should award sufficient grants each year to plant not less than 300,000 trees a year until 2025; DeGette (No. 19) that requires EPA to identify 100 environmental justice communities overburdened by pollution violations and implement strategies for ending the violations; Delgado (No. 20) that requires the Department of Labor and the Department of Energy to project the current and future workforce needs and shortages within the clean energy technology industry; DeSaulnier (No. 21) that establishes a Department of Energy, in coordination with the Department of Labor, grant program for local communities to develop transition plans for their fossil fuel workforce to more sustainable jobs or sectors; Dingell (No. 22) that amends the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify and make technical changes to the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards; Finkenauer (No. 25) that provides labor standards for clean energy projects being funded in whole or in part by provisions of this bill; Golden (No. 27) that incorporates biomass systems into the Distributed Renewable Energy section of the bill, as well as the energy workforce development and grant program sections; Haaland (No. 31) that ensures that the HA–LEU program created in the bill will not negatively impact the natural or cultural resources of Tribal communities or Native Nations or degrade ground or surface water quality as a result of uranium mining; Hayes (No. 35) that amends Section 6201, the Reauthorization of the Clean School Bus Program; reserves $100 million of $130 million per fiscal year between 2021–2025 for awards to eligible recipients proposing to replace school buses with zero-emission school buses; Hayes (No. 36) that ensures nothing in this bill would affect the safety and well being of children in carrying out the projects, programs, and other applicable items in this Act or affect the enforcement of child labor and forced labor laws; Huffman (No. 37) that ensures that harmed Indian Tribes have an opportunity to address the Klamath Hydroelectric Project’s historic and ongoing damages to tribal and fishery resources, and that any annual license includes comprehensive studies of the facility’s impacts; Kuster (NH) (No. 38) that doubles funding to $40,000,000 for the Energy Workforce Development program, which will help schools and workforce programs train the next generation of energy workers; Lee (NV) (No. 43) that amends subtitle C of Title II to facilitate a streamlined process for the local permitting of distributed energy systems; Levin (MI) (No. 44) that amends various programs under subtitle E–EV Infrastructure by expanding on the definition of ‘underserved or disadvantaged community used under this subtitle; ensuring EV supply equipment listed as eligible for the rebate program is ADA compliant; requiring identification of nearby existing publicly available EV supply equipment in the EV infrastructure rebate program application; requiring the Secretary of Energy in developing standards for an electric vehicle charging network to provide considerations for addressing range anxiety and the need for a nationwide network of EV charging infrastructure; and ensuring State Energy Transportation Plans include considerations for statewide networks of EV charging infrastructure and modernization to electric grids to be powered by renewable energy sources; Levin (MI) (No. 45) that directs the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, and acting through the Bureau of Labor statistics to collect and analyze labor market data to track workforce trends resulting from renewable energy and energy efficiency technology initiatives; authorizes appropriations of $10,000,000 for each fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this section; Loeb (No. 48) that establishes a grant program within DOE for the purpose of making energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities; Lujan (No. 52) that supports the growth of local solar energy by making community
solar more accessible to all consumers and ratepayers, including lower-income consumers, by requiring states to consider enacting policies to allow community solar projects; Norcross (No. 55) that creates a rebate program for energy efficient electrotechnologies upgrades; Norcross (No. 56) that allows grant funds for Building efficiency and resiliency to be used to make an addition or alteration to, or to install, replace, or provide maintenance to, an air filtration and purification system of an HVAC system to help prevent the spread of COVID–19; all laborers and mechanics employed in the process of the project must be paid prevailing wages; O’Halleran (No. 58) that reauthorizes and increases funding for Section 609 “Rural and Remote Communities Electrification Grants” under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) to assist the economic transition of rural and distressed communities impacted by the downturn of coal-fired power generation; grants available under this section may be used to increase energy efficiency, upgrade transmission or distribution lines, or modernize electric generation facilities in rural and distressed communities, with an emphasis on renewable energy; O’Halleran (No. 59) that directs the Department of Energy to establish a “Coal Community Resource Clearinghouse” for the purpose of increasing awareness of Federal and State programs, grants, loans, and technical assistance resources DOE determines could assist economic development and transition activities in communities impacted by the downturn of coal-fired power generation; Omar (No. 60) that requires the Administrator to establish and carry out a program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities for projects that are consistent with zero-waste practices; Omar (No. 61) that states that the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to Congress a report that contains—(1) an identification of any existing fossil fuel production subsidies not eliminated by this Act, or the amendments made by this Act; and (2) a quantification of the economic costs of such subsidies; Peters (No. 65) that establishes an interagency task force to create an action plan to reduce super pollutants based on policy recommendations provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, U.S. Climate Alliance, and other relevant agencies; Peters (No. 66) that directs EPA, DOE and other relevant agencies to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce black carbon emissions from the international shipping industry through its membership in the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including binding limits on black carbon as part of the Polar Code; Peters (No. 67) that requires the DOE to release the Interconnections Seams Study, which may support efforts to increase renewable energy transmission, and has reportedly been held and/or altered for political reasons; Plaskett (No. 70) that establishes a Department of Energy grant program for investments in renewable energy systems, energy efficiency activities, energy storage, smart grids, or microgrids in territories of the United States, as well as for training local residents; grants would be awarded to non-profit organizations and the Department of Energy’s National Laboratories may provide technical assistance; Pocan (No. 71) that reauthorizes the EPA State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) Program; Quigley (No. 73) that establishes an Advanced Energy Technology Research Initiative at FERC to reform power system modeling and update grid services and grid operator software, and authorizes studies on advanced energy and electric grid efficiency; Rouda (No. 74) that suspends preemption for federal appliance and equipment efficiency standards when DOE misses deadlines to update such standards; Rush (No. 75) that requires the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy jobs council; the council shall conduct a survey of energy employers and produce annually an energy and employment report; Thompson (CA) (No. 83) that clarifies that energy use avoided through the use of geothermal pump technology is considered renewable energy produced for the purposes of this bill; Tlaib (No. 84) that requires the EPA to conduct a study to evaluate the disparate health impacts of emissions from fossil fuel facilities on minority and low and moderate income communities; requires EPA to report to congress a summary of the study conducted; Tonko (No. 85) that requires the EPA Administrator to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to assess methods for life cycle greenhouse gas emissions analyses for low-carbon transportation fuels; Waters (No. 86) that requires the Secretary of Transportation’s report on electric vehicle (EV) charging station infrastructure in underserved communities to identify the potential for, and obstacles to, recruiting and entering into contracts with locally-owned small and disadvantaged businesses, including women- and minority-owned businesses, to deploy EV charging infrastructure in these communities; Waters (No. 87) that encourages institutions of higher education that receive grants for the construction of training and assessment centers to identify and consider qualified diverse candidates during the procurement process; Waters (No. 88) that requires the Secretary of Energy to evaluate, on state applications for “State Leadership Grants,” which support the implementation of smart manufacturing technology, whether proposed projects will benefit diverse communities; Waters (No. 89) that expands the Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Program to include multifamily housing; Wild (No. 90) that requires the Secretary
of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, to establish a program to provide competitive grants to eligible entities to pay for pre-apprenticeship training for individuals or on-the-job training of a new or existing employee; Blumenauer (No. 93) that requires the Secretary of Energy to file a report to the committees of jurisdiction documenting funds spent under the LightWater Reactor Sustainability program, and creates an advisory committee to submit an annual report to the relevant committees outlining the progress of the this program; Krishnamoorthi (No. 95) that requires the public awareness campaign to include projected environmental impact, and information on how to find more information on the grant; Clark (MA) (No. 96) that creates a task force led by the Secretary of Energy, which would be tasked with creating a report identifying tools that the Federal Government can use to advance the deployment of carbon dioxide removal projects; and Blunt Rochester (No. 97) that creates a competitive grant program at EPA to incentivize ports to create and implement climate action plans;

Stevens en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–528: Axne (No. 1) that adds biofuels facilities as eligible for funding under the Carbon Capture Program; Castor (FL) (No. 14) that adds emissions reduction and climate change mitigation to DOE’s R&D mission; Castor (FL) (No. 15) that directs the Secretary of Energy to engage the National Academies for a study to identify barriers to equitable distribution of the benefits of clean energy to frontline communities; Cox (CA) (No. 18) that adds agricultural applications, such as solar powered smart agricultural monitoring and irrigation systems, as an eligible solar energy research subject area; Doggett (No. 23) that directs the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study to evaluate the efficacy of carbon capture technology and to identify industries where energy efficiency is most enhanced by the addition of carbon capture technology; Escobar (No. 24) that requires the Department of Energy to give special consideration to minority-serving institutions, or a multi-institutional consortium which includes a minority-serving institution, when awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements for solar energy research and development programs; Garamendi (No. 26) that clarifies that offshore wind projects on the Outer Continental Shelf are indeed subject to jurisdiction of the U.S. Constitution and applicable federal laws, as offshore oil/gas rigs are currently; Graves (LA) (No. 29) that requires actions under emissions reduction roadmap to be cost-competitive in developing countries as well; Lamb (No. 39) that authorizes fusion research program; Lamb (No. 40) that authorizes milestone-based nuclear demonstration projects; Lamb (No. 41) that authorizes produced water research, development, and demonstration program; Larsen (WA) (No. 42) that directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to catalog climate change mitigation efforts in U.S. aviation and aerospace, identify barriers to adoption and serve as a roadmap for U.S. aviation to meet emission reduction goals; Lipinski (No. 47) that requires the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research program on effects of exposure to low-dose radiation; Lowenthal (No. 49) that requires the Department of Interior to create an online database to annually report the type of energy and emissions produced on federal public lands; Lucas (No. 50) that expresses the sense of Congress that in order to reduce emissions and meet 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, or zero emission energy sources while maintaining U.S. leadership in science and technology, the Secretary of Energy must prioritize funding for fundamental research, and research and development infrastructure; Mucarsel-Powell (No. 54) that directs the Secretary to support research and development of underground transmission and distribution lines to lower costs and improve reliability and safety; Perlmutter (No. 64) that modifies the definition of energy storage to broaden its scope; Pingree (No. 69) that includes research and development that reduces impacts on existing ocean uses and increases coordination between offshore wind and existing users, including the commercial fishing industry, as purposes of the Department of Energy’s wind energy research and development grant program; Quigley (No. 72) that directs GSA to incorporate, to the extent practicable features, practices, and strategies to reduce bird fatality resulting from collisions with public buildings; Schweikert (No. 77) that requires the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the benefits of blue hydrogen technology and how that can further enhance the deployment and adoption of carbon capture and storage; Scott (VA) (No. 78) that supports the use of modeling and simulation tools to more efficiently design, site, permit, manufacture, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission wind energy systems; Scott (VA) (No. 79) that supports research on the recovery of critical materials used in wind energy systems; Sherrill (No. 80) that provides explicit direction for DOE to conduct RD&D on ways to reduce siting and permitting issues associated with potential impacts of wind power systems on air traffic control, air defense, and weather radar systems; Stevens (No. 81) that directs the Secretary to establish
a program of research, development, and demonstration activities on more efficient and sustainable materials, technologies, and processes for the manufacture, development, and use of the passenger and commercial vehicles; Bera (No. 94) that updates the methane waste prevention rules of the Bureau of Land Management; and Luján (No. 98) that creates a congressionally-authorized Department of Energy foundation to support the Department’s energy missions and to increase collaboration to accelerate the commercialization of energy technologies (by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 172 nays, Roll No. 202);

Haaland amendment (No. 32 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–528) that increases authorizations for renewable energy R&D accounts by 50% and adds an authorization for total funding for research, development, demonstration and commercialization activities for EERE (by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 173 nays, Roll No. 203); and

Levin (CA) en bloc amendment No. 4 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–528: Harder (No. 33) that directs the Secretary of Energy to generate a map that maps wildfire risk around utilities to allow for better planning for grid hardening, vegetation management, and emergency access points, among other things; Harder (No. 34) that requires the Centers of Excellence to consider the public health effects of wildfire smoke on outdoor workers, strengthens research and outreach, requires collaboration between centers and grantees, and sets a standard for determining Centers; Levin (CA) (No. 46) that establishes a program to improve wildfire smoke emissions modeling and to develop smoke forecasts; directs the Environmental Protection Agency to collect data and coordinate research on the impacts of acute air pollution exposure from wildfires; McNerney (No. 53) that directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to collect data following wildfires in the wildland-urban interface related to the influence of building materials on structural fires and how wind, terrain, and moisture affect wildland fires; NIST would also be required to conduct research on and develop metrics for economic outcomes associated with wildland-urban interface fire mitigation; Panetta (No. 62) that directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a critical infrastructure and microgrid research program; Panetta (No. 63) that expands financial assistance for weatherization enhancement and innovation to cover the use of materials that are resistant to high heat and fire in dwellings occupied by low-income persons in areas at risk from drought and wildfires; Pingree (No. 68) that includes agricultural and grazing practices and forest management and afforestation as priorities in the Department of Energy’s carbon removal program; Schrader (No. 76) that establishes the Home Wildfire Risk Reduction Rebate program, to provide rebates to homeowners to defray the costs of retrofitting an existing home to be wildfire-resistant; Thompson (CA) (No. 82) that establishes a reliability standard, within the Federal Power Act, regarding extreme weather events; directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to create a program and publish a report for states and local utilities on ways to improve the resiliency of their electrical grids; and Bera (No. 92) that directs the Secretary of Energy to support R&D on tools and technologies for improving electric grid and energy sector safety and resilience during concurrent or co-located severe weather events (by a yea-and-nay vote of 273 yeas to 132 nays, Roll No. 204).

Pages H4938–39, H4945–46

Levin (CA) en bloc amendment No. 4 that sought to require the Secretary of Energy to report to Congress on the effect of variable and distributed energy resources on the reliability of the electric grid, specifically pertaining to natural disasters and physical or cyber attacks on the grid infrastructure; Burgess (No. 13) that sought to requires the Secretary of Energy to report to Congress on the potential duplication of research efforts in the Department of Energy’s applied energy programs, evaluate the opportunity costs associated with such efforts, and examine the impact of combining duplicated projects; Graves (LA) (No. 28) that sought to require the Secretary of Energy to identify the ability to source necessary critical minerals necessary for solar energy production; Graves (LA) (No. 30) that sought to require a report on the increase or decrease in net imports of critical minerals as a result of actions taken in section 5302; Lucas (No. 51) that sought to express the sense of Congress that in order to reduce emissions and meet 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, or zero emission energy sources while maintaining U.S. competitiveness in science and technology, the U.S. must prioritize investment in domestic energy sources and supply chains, as well as investment in the research and development of exportable next-generation energy technologies; and Wilson (SC) (No. 91) that sought to evaluate potential demonstration sites across the Department of Energy complex under Advanced Nuclear Reactor Research, Development, Demonstration, and Commercial Application Program.

Pages H4933–38

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized in the engrossment to correct section numbers, punctuation,
spelling, and cross-references and to make such other
technical and conforming changes as may be nec-
essary to reflect the actions of the House. Page H4949

H. Res. 1129, the rule providing for consideration
of the bills (H.R. 4447), (H.R. 6270), and (H.R.
8319) was agreed to yesterday, September 23rd.

Providing for the use of the catafalque situated in
the crypt beneath the Rotunda of the Capitol in con-
nection with memorial services to be conducted in
the Supreme Court Building and the Capitol for the
late honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Just-
tice of the United States Supreme Court: The House
agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to
S. Con. Res. 45, providing for the use of the cata-
falque situated in the crypt beneath the Rotunda of
the Capitol in connection with memorial services to
be conducted in the Supreme Court Building and
the Capitol for the late honorable Ruth Bader Gins-
burg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme
Court. Pages H4949–50

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Repre-
sentative Gohmert announced his intent to offer a
privileged resolution. Pages H4951–52

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 46 was held at the
desk. S. 914 was referred to the Committee on Nat-
ural Resources, the Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology, and the Committee on Financial
Services. Page H4956

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate
by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the
House today appears on page H4898.

Quorum Calls Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes devel-
oped during the proceedings of today and appear on
pages H4945, H4945–46, H4946–47, H4948–49,
and H4949.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and ad-
journed at 6:46 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE 2020 WILDFIRE YEAR: RESPONSE AND
RECOVERY EFFORTS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conser-
vation and Forestry held a hearing entitled “The 2020
Wildfire Year: Response and Recovery Efforts”. Testi-
mony was heard from John Phipps, Deputy Chief
for State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee
held a markup on H.R. 8294, the “National Ap-
prenticeship Act of 2020”. H.R. 8294 was ordered
reported, as amended. MAINSTREAMING EXTREMISM: SOCIAL
MEDIA’S ROLE IN RADICALIZING AMERICA

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on
Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing
entitled “Mainstreaming Extremism: Social Media’s Role in Radicalizing America”. Testimony was heard
from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES
AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA AND U.S.
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING
EFFORTS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a
hearing entitled “Oversight of the United States
Agency for Global Media and U.S. International
Broadcasting Efforts”. Testimony was heard from
Grant Turner, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Agency
for Global Media; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Con-
stitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a
hearing entitled “Oversight of the Civil Rights Divi-
sion of the Department of Justice”. Testimony was
heard from Catherine E. Lhamon, Chair, U.S. Com-
mission on Civil Rights; and public witnesses.

DIVERSITY IN AMERICA: THE
REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR
IN THE MEDIA

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a
hearing entitled “Diversity in America: The Rep-
resentation of People of Color in the Media”. Testi-
mony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL AND STATE EFFORTS TO
RESTORE THE SALTON SEA

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled
“Federal and State Efforts to Restore the Salton Sea”.
Testimony was heard from Wade Crowfoot, Sec-
retary, California Natural Resources Agency; E. Joa-
quin Esquivel, Chair, California State Water Re-
sources Control Board; and a public witness.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for In-
digenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing
on H.R. 7565, to authorize the Seminole Tribe of
Florida to lease or transfer certain land, and for other
purposes; and H.R. 8255, to clarify the status of
gaming conducted by the Catawba Indian Nation,
and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from
public witnesses.
CLIMATE CHANGE, PART IV: MOVING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Climate Change, Part IV: Moving Towards a Sustainable Future”. Testimony was heard from Christopher Castro, Director of Sustainability and Resilience, Orlando, Florida; Reed Schuler, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, Governor Jay Inslee, Washington; and public witnesses.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM: AN EXAMINATION OF LOAN FORGIVENESS, SBA LEGACY SYSTEMS, AND INACCURATE DATA

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Paycheck Protection Program: An Examination of Loan Forgiveness, SBA Legacy Systems, and Inaccurate Data”. Testimony was heard from William Manger, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, Small Business Administration.

THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN AND WATER MANAGEMENT IN FLORIDA

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Water Management in Florida”. Testimony was heard from Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Chauncey P. Goss II, Chairman, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board, Florida; and public witnesses.

SAVE OUR SOCIAL SECURITY NOW

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled “Save Our Social Security Now”. Testimony was heard from Senator Wyden, Representatives Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Sánchez, Judy Chu of California, and Beyer; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a business meeting on recommendations to improve the congressional schedule and calendar, boost congressional capacity, reclaim Article One responsibilities, reform the budget and appropriations process, identify administrative inefficiencies, and improve technology and continuity in Congress; and to consider the Committee’s Final Report. Recommendations and the Committee’s Final Report were approved, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House


Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing entitled "Restaurants in America During the COVID–19 Pandemic", 9 a.m., Webex.
Next Meeting of the Senate
2:45 p.m., Monday, September 28

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
9 a.m., Friday, September 25

Senate Chamber
Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber
Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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