

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2638.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of S. 2638, the Friendly Airports for Mothers Improvement Act.

Introduced in the Senate by Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH from Illinois, this is a commonsense bill that requires small hub airports to maintain lactation areas for nursing mothers and a baby-changing table in men's and women's restrooms.

As a result of this legislation, small hub airports will begin to come in line with the medium and large hub airports, which were charged with meeting the same requirements as the result of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Similar legislation was introduced in the House by Representative CAROL MILLER and passed in this Chamber December 2019.

I want to thank both Senator DUCKWORTH and Representative MILLER for their leadership on this issue and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 2638.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2638, the Friendly Airports for Mothers Improvement Act.

Traveling with infants is often stressful on new mothers and new fathers. I think back to when I was a young mom traveling with my sons, Chris and Sam, and now traveling with their wives, who just blessed us with our sixth grandchild, and to all moms and dads across the country who face the distinct challenges of traveling with their babies, let alone babies plus a sibling who could be a toddler, which is often the case.

This bill helps to lessen anxiety when traveling and allows mothers to have a quiet private space to care for their young ones. I introduced similar legislation, H.R. 3362, earlier this year to help accomplish this goal, and I am pleased to see this issue brought to a vote today.

As air travel continues to be one of the most preferred and popular means of transportation, we need to make sure that airport infrastructure is properly updated to fit the needs of American mothers and fathers and American families.

S. 2638 would require small hub airports to construct mothers' rooms, which are areas where mothers can nurse their children in privacy, rather than a restroom. Think how disgusting

that would be. Moms know that there is nothing comforting or nurturing about nursing a baby in an unsanitary condition of an airport bathroom.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 required all large and medium hub airports to construct mothers' rooms by 2021. This bill would help fill the remaining gap and similarly require small hub airports to install mothers' rooms, extending the coverage to 97 percent of all travelers.

With the pandemic, travel has become even more difficult, so the timing of this bill couldn't be more appropriate because it emphasizes the need for Congress to come together to pass bipartisan support in the COVID crisis, without which our airports may continue to be empty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 2638, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member SAM GRAVES for their work on this legislation.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this is a demonstration of bipartisan cooperation, what we were sent here to do, as opposed to the politics that we have all seen that have hijacked our government in recent months. The reality is that they are real needs of the American public, and this is an example of that.

This legislation is very simple. Airports are not like traditional roadways. You have a runway that is usually, at most airports, one runway, and that is it. So when that runway goes down, that airport can't function. You can't have flights come in. You can't have commercial or general aviation operations. So this legislation, very simply, allows for incentive-based contracting, where you can reduce the amount of time that it takes you to do your construction project. It diminishes delays on vacations, family visits, business travel, and all the important things that are facilitated by our aviation infrastructure by airports.

Again, it simply allows us to more quickly address safety issues, capacity issues, and expansion issues in airports. The bottom line is this ultimately is a saver for taxpayers, because if we can resume operations, it allows the traveling public to advance and the economy to flow, and it allows aviation taxes to also continue flowing.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Mr. DEFAZIO, Congressman LARSEN, Congressman SAM GRAVES, and all those who worked together on this important legislation, and I urge adoption.

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

Mr. Speaker, as stated, the aim of this bill, ensuring that mothers and families with young children have proper facilities while traveling, is a need that is long overdue, and it is high time that we fix it.

I have a personal story. In the 1980s, I was traveling with my husband and my two sons. One was in diapers, and one was a toddler. I handed the one in diapers to my husband when I realized that the baby needed to be changed. He took the baby and the paraphernalia with him to the men's restroom to take care of the baby.

When he comes back, he hands me a child who is crying, looks at his mommy, and reaches out. My husband goes: I did the best I could with what I had.

Well, he went into a bathroom that had sinks lined up on the wall, so he had to place the baby on top of two sinks to take care of business. I will leave the rest up to you, but we did do the best we could.

Thank the Lord, we are now going to be in modern times and take care of families the way they should be, having the appropriate things in both bathrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, affording women lactation stations is something that I was very proud to have done, as we are now doing with small airports. We did it for all county facilities in county government when I was a county supervisor.

I am really glad to see this bipartisan bill is moving forward. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2638.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REINVIGORATING LENDING FOR THE FUTURE ACT

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4075) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide for the release of certain Federal interests in connection with certain grants under that Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4075

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 "Reinvigorating Lending for the Future Act" or the "RLF Act".

SEC. 2. RELEASE OF CERTAIN INTERESTS.

Section 601(d)(2) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3211(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through “The Secretary may” and inserting the following:

“(2) RELEASE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CERTAIN RELEASES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—On written request from a recipient of a grant under section 209(d), the Secretary shall release, in accordance with this subparagraph, any Federal interest in connection with the grant, if—

“(I) the request is made not less than 7 years after the final disbursement of the original grant;

“(II) the recipient has complied with the terms and conditions of the grant to the satisfaction of the Secretary;

“(III) any proceeds realized from the grant will be used for 1 or more activities that continue to carry out the economic development purposes of this Act; and

“(IV) the recipient includes in the written request a description of how the recipient will use the proceeds of the grant in accordance with subclause (III).

“(i) DEADLINE.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary shall complete all closeout actions for the grant by not later than 180 days after receipt and acceptance of the written request under clause (i).

“(II) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend a deadline under subclause (I) by an additional 180 days if the Secretary determines the extension to be necessary.

“(iii) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Section 602 shall continue to apply to a project assisted with a grant under section 209(d) regardless of whether the Secretary releases a Federal interest under clause (i).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 4075.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4075, the Reinvigorating Lending for the Future Act.

This bipartisan legislation will help cut the red tape and allow greater levels of local investment in economic development projects by allowing the Economic Development Administration to waive Federal interest in certain revolving loan funds.

The EDA supports economic development by providing seed capital to revolving loan funds that offer low-interest loans to help new businesses get off the ground. Those loans are repaid with interest to the RLF manager,

which then loans the funds out again to other businesses. This strategy has been highly effective, and more than 500 RLFs are in operation today.

But unlike other EDA grants, the Federal interest in these funds remain in perpetuity. RLF managers must report and the EDA must track these funds, no matter how many times they are lent out and repaid. The funds can never be repurposed for other economic development projects.

The RLF Act fixes this bureaucratic nightmare by allowing the Secretary of Commerce to release the Federal interest in these funds after 7 years, provided that the funds are used for other approved economic development projects like the development of public infrastructure or workforce training.

This bill cuts through the red tape and allows for the local control our regions need to invest in the most beneficial economic development projects for their communities.

This legislation has broad bipartisan support and is endorsed by the National Association of Development Organizations and the International Economic Development Council, two of the largest economic development advocacy groups in the country.

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

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

S. 4075, the RLF Act, would release the Federal interest in the Economic Development Administration's revolving loan funds after 7 years if requested by the recipient.

I thank Congressman KATKO, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for his leadership and work on this issue.

This fix to reduce the administrative burden of RLF funds was requested by the administration, as well as by State and local economic development officials.

Even after the funds have turned over in these RLFs, local officials continue to be saddled with unnecessary paperwork. Releasing the Federal interest when the government's role is over will also release officials of the extra paperwork.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 4075 will cut red tape and reduce paperwork for the communities that receive EDA grants for revolving loan funds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legisla-

tion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senate companion to my bill, S. 4075 the Reinvigorating Lending for the Future Act of 2020. The U.S. Economic Development Administration and its Revolving Loan Fund program provide desperately needed loans to small businesses and local community organizations across the United States.

This funding is often a lifeline to rural communities overlooked by traditional financing. However, under current burdensome regulations, EDA RLF grantees must report on these funds “in perpetuity”—even on loans made and paid back decades ago. I have heard from the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations, 8 of the 10 organizations serve my district, that this requirement takes away valuable time from the work at hand which is providing access to capital and supporting businesses.

Now more than ever, as many Americans are struggling to stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic, the RLF Act is a vital sign of support to our small businesses back home. My bill would remove this unnecessary requirement and allow local communities the freedom they need to recover their economies. This bipartisan legislation requires no additional funding, and creates more flexibility for regional economic development. The RLF Act returns decision making to the local units of government, eliminates unnecessary reporting and is just good common sense. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4075.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2020

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5912) to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5912

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 “Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. ALLOWABLE COST STANDARDS FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 47110(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “(1) if the cost necessarily” and inserting “(1)(A) if the cost necessarily”;

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) if the cost is an incentive payment incurred in carrying out the project described