

preserve and protect these fragile ecosystems. The State Department has reached 20 separate bilateral agreements with 14 countries, resulting in over \$339 million in long-term commitment to conserve tropical forests.

This bipartisan legislation takes significant strides to build stronger relationships with countries around the world, while ensuring that irreplaceable tropical forests and coral reefs are protected and preserved for future generations.

I am pleased to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7954, the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Reauthorization Act of 2020, led by Representative STEVE CHABOT from Ohio and BRAD SHERMAN from California.

Congress first enacted this important legislation in 1998. The legislation allows eligible developing countries to restructure certain debt owed to the U.S. Government and, in turn, generates additional revenue to support tropical forest or coral reef conservation projects. These agreements also reinvest in locally led civil society and conservation organizations that take ownership of this critical restoration work.

According to The Nature Conservancy, agreements under this program have saved more than 67 million acres of tropical forest in countries such as Botswana, Brazil, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Since first enacted, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act has generated almost \$340 million in local currency for tropical forest conservation projects. These are substantial investments in the health of our world's most critical forests and an investment in future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for their leadership on this legislation here today and previous to this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7954, the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020. It is bipartisan legislation that I introduced with my Democratic colleague and friend from California, BRAD SHERMAN, as a companion to legislation that Senator PORTMAN introduced previously in the Senate.

I want to thank Senator PORTMAN. He has been a longtime leader on this topic, and it makes a lot of sense. It is

really common sense. It helps so many people all across the globe.

Tropical forests and coral reefs are some of the most biologically diverse and environmentally important ecosystems anywhere. Today, however, whether it is deforestation or pollution or overfishing or some other cause, these vital natural resources are threatened across the globe.

Now, many tropical forests and coral reefs are located in the developing world where economic realities can often get in the way of the conservation. It is in the best interest of the whole world to protect and responsibly manage these resources. That is why I introduced H.R. 7954.

This legislation builds on our work on the Tropical Forest Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2018 and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act back in 1998, so this is 22 years ago.

Back in 1998, we set up a debt forgiveness program under which the U.S. forgives a debt owed to us by a developing nation in exchange for that country making investments in conservation work to sustain its critical ecosystems.

Agreements under this program also strengthen local economies by supporting sustainable development of these resources as well as civil society groups in partner nations that conduct conservation works.

And this program has proven results. Since 1998, as was mentioned, the U.S. has used it to conserve 67 million acres—think of that, 67 million acres—of tropical forests. Further, by assisting developing countries to properly manage and sustainably develop these resources, the program follows the old adage of teaching a man to fish.

With these benefits in mind, I am proud to say that our legislation has received the support of Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and The Nature Conservancy, among others.

□ 1600

Finally, our legislation sets a sharp contrast with what the Chinese development model is. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, for example, China has offered elites in developing countries flashy or get-rich-quick schemes and projects, often with little or no regard for the local environment. Citizens in these countries are taken advantage of.

H.R. 7954 keeps one more tool in the State Department's toolbox to help convince developing countries to choose a sustainable, Western model of development that stacks up very favorably with China's model by respecting the country's ecosystem and respecting its people.

Passing this bill, H.R. 7954, extends a highly successful conservation program and helps counter China's pig in a poke development model; therefore, I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I thank Mr. WILSON and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers,

and I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STEVE CHABOT, who is a proven champion for conservation and for ecosystems beneficial to countries around the world for offering this measure. With the expanded authority to use debt-for-nature agreements to target tropical coral reef restoration, there is much more work to be done.

This bill will ensure that the policy objectives and programs outlined in the Republican-led, bipartisan legislation enacted in December 2018 will be fully operationalized. This is a commonsense approach that reduces eligible countries' debt burdens while reinvesting those resources in local tropical forests and coral reef conservation.

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. CHABOT for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, the chair of this committee, for his many years of distinguished service in Congress ably representing his district, the State of New York, and our country here in the Halls of Congress while presiding and leading the Foreign Affairs Committee. Today is a testament of all the great work that he has done across the aisle with many Members who have, of course, contributed tremendously to the dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7954.

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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2020, at 11:50 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 4902.

That the Senate passed S. 2216.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1668.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5901.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 5 p.m.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 6395, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO PERMIT CLOSED CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, I move that meetings of the conference between the House and Senate on H.R. 6395 may be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information may be discussed, provided that any sitting Member of Congress shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, the motion is not debatable, and the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 8, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 222]

YEAS—396

Adams	Balderson	Bishop (GA)
Aguilar	Banks	Bishop (NC)
Allen	Barr	Bishop (UT)
Allred	Barragán	Blunt Rochester
Armstrong	Bass	Bonamici
Arrington	Beatty	Bost
Axne	Bera	Boyle, Brendan
Babin	Bergman	F.
Bacon	Beyer	Brady
Baird	Bilirakis	Brindisi

Brooks (AL)	Gibbs	Maloney,
Brooks (IN)	Gohmert	Carolyn B.
Brown (MD)	Golden	Maloney, Sean
Brownley (CA)	Gomez	Marchant
Buchanan	Gonzalez (OH)	Marshall
Buck	Gonzalez (TX)	Mast
Bucshon	Gooden	Matsui
Budd	Gosar	McAdams
Burchett	Gottheimer	McBath
Burgess	Granger	McCarthy
Bustos	Graves (LA)	McCaul
Butterfield	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Byrne	Green, Al (TX)	McCollum
Calvert	Griffith	McEachin
Carbajal	Grijalva	McGovern
Cárdenas	Grothman	McHenry
Carson (IN)	Guest	McKinley
Carter (GA)	Guthrie	McNerney
Cartwright	Haaland	Meeks
Case	Hagedorn	Meng
Casten (IL)	Harder (CA)	Meuser
Castor (FL)	Harris	Mfume
Castro (TX)	Hartzler	Miller
Chabot	Hastings	Moolenaar
Cheney	Hayes	Mooney (WV)
Chu, Judy	Heck	Moore
Cicilline	Hern, Kevin	Morelle
Cisneros	Herrera Beutler	Moulton
Clark (MA)	Hice (GA)	Mucarsel-Powell
Clarke (NY)	Higgins (LA)	Mullin
Clay	Higgins (NY)	Murphy (NC)
Cleaver	Hill (AR)	Nadler
Cline	Himes	Napolitano
Cloud	Holding	Neal
Clyburn	Hollingsworth	Neguse
Cohen	Horn, Kendra S.	Norcross
Cole	Horsford	Norman
Comer	Houlahan	Nunes
Conaway	Hoyer	O'Halleran
Connolly	Hudson	Ocasio-Cortez
Cook	Huffman	Omar
Cooper	Hurd (TX)	Palazzo
Correa	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Costa	Jacobs	Palmer
Courtney	Jayapal	Panetta
Cox (CA)	Jeffries	Pappas
Craig	Johnson (GA)	Pascarell
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Payne
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Pence
Crist	Johnson (SD)	Perlmutter
Crow	Johnson (TX)	Peters
Cuellar	Jordan	Peterson
Cunningham	Joyce (OH)	Phillips
Curtis	Joyce (PA)	Pingree
Davids (KS)	Kaptur	Pocan
Davis (CA)	Katko	Porter
Davis, Danny K.	Keating	Posey
Davis, Rodney	Keller	Pressley
Dean	Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)
DeGette	Kelly (MS)	Quigley
DeLauro	Kelly (PA)	Raskin
DeBene	Kennedy	Reed
Delgado	Khanna	Reschenthaler
Demings	Kildee	Rice (NY)
DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Rice (SC)
Deutsch	Kim	Riggleman
Diaz-Balart	Kind	Roby
Dingell	King (IA)	Rodgers (WA)
Doggett	Kinzinger	Roe, David P.
Doyle, Michael	Kirkpatrick	Rogers (AL)
F.	Krishnamoorthi	Rogers (FL)
Dunn	Kuster (NH)	Rose (NY)
Emmer	Kustoff (TN)	Rose, John W.
Engel	LaHood	Rouda
Escobar	LaMalfa	Rouzer
Eshoo	Lamb	Roybal-Allard
Españillat	Langevin	Ruiz
Estes	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
Evans	Larson (CT)	Rush
Finkenauer	Latta	Rutherford
Fitzpatrick	Lawrence	Ryan
Fleischmann	Lawson (FL)	Sánchez
Fletcher	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
Flores	Lee (NV)	Scalise
Fortenberry	Levin (CA)	Scanlon
Foster	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky
Fox (NC)	Lieu, Ted	Schiff
Frankel	Lipinski	Schneider
Fudge	Loebach	Schrader
Fulcher	Lofgren	Schrier
Gabbard	Long	Schweikert
Gaetz	Loudermilk	Scott (VA)
Gallagher	Lowenthal	Scott, Austin
Gallgo	Lowey	Scott, David
Garamendi	Lucas	Serrano
García (CA)	Luján	Sewell (AL)
García (IL)	Luria	Shalala
García (TX)	Lynch	Sherman
	Malinowski	Sherrill

Shimkus	Thompson (CA)	Walden
Simpson	Thompson (MS)	Walker
Sires	Thompson (PA)	Walorski
Slotkin	Thornberry	Wasserman
Smith (MO)	Tiffany	Schultz
Smith (NE)	Timmons	Waters
Smith (NJ)	Tipton	Watkins
Smith (WA)	Titus	Watson Coleman
Smucker	Tlaib	Weber (TX)
Soto	Tonko	Webster (FL)
Spanberger	Torres (CA)	Welch
Spano	Torres Small	Wenstrup
Speier	(NM)	Westerman
Stanton	Trahan	Wexton
Staubert	Trone	Wild
Stefanik	Turner	Williams
Steil	Underwood	Wilson (FL)
Steube	Upton	Wilson (SC)
Stevens	Van Drew	Wittman
Stewart	Vargas	Womack
Stivers	Veasey	Woodall
Suozi	Vela	Yarmuth
Swalwell (CA)	Velázquez	Yoho
Takano	Visclosky	Zeldin
Taylor	Wagner	

NAYS—8

Amash	Davidson (OH)	Perry
Biggs	DeFazio	Roy
Blumenauer	Massie	

NOT VOTING—25

Abraham	Huizenga	Richmond
Aderholt	King (NY)	Rogers (KY)
Amodei	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Carter (TX)	Lesko	Walberg
Collins (GA)	Luetkemeyer	Waltz
Duncan	Mitchell	Wright
Ferguson	Murphy (FL)	Young
Gianforte	Newhouse	
Green (TN)	Olson	

□ 1756

Mr. ROY changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. TAYLOR, GALLAGHER, and KING of Iowa changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Hastings	Perlmutter
Beatty (Fudge)	(Wasserman)	(Neguse)
Blumenauer	Schultz	Peterson
(Beyer)	Higgins (NY)	(McCollum)
Bonamici (Clark)	(Sánchez)	Pingree (Kuster
(MA))	Jayapal (Raskin)	(NH))
Boyle, Brendan	Johnson (TX)	Pocan (Raskin)
F. (Jeffries)	(Jeffries)	Porter (Wexton)
Brownley (CA)	Keating (Kuster	Price (NC)
(Clark (MA))	(NH))	(Butterfield)
Bustos (Kuster	Kirkpatrick	Rooney (FL)
(NH))	(Stanton)	(Beyer)
Carson (IN)	Langevin	Rose (NY)
(Cleaver)	(Lynch)	(Golden)
Castro (TX)	Lawrence	Roybal-Allard
(García (TX))	(Kildee)	(Bass)
Clay (Cleaver)	Lawson (FL)	Ruiz (Dingell)
Cohen (Beyer)	(Demings)	Rush
Costa (Cooper)	Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	(Underwood)
Courtney (Hayes)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Ryan (Kildee)
DeGette (Blunt	Lowenthal	Schrier (Kilmer)
Rochester)	(Beyer)	Serrano
DeSaulnier	Lowey (Tonko)	(Jeffries)
(Matsui)	McEachin	Speier (Scanlon)
Escobar (García	(Wexton)	Titus (Connolly)
(TX))	Meng (Kuster	Vargas (Correa)
Frankel (Clark	(NH))	Watson Coleman
(MA))	Moore (Beyer)	(Pallone)
Garamendi	Nadler (Jeffries)	Welch
(Sherman)	Napolitano	(McGovern)
Gonzalez (TX)	(Correa)	Wilson (FL)
(Gomez)	Payne	(Hayes)
Grijalva (García	(Wasserman	
(IL))	Schultz)	