

they liked their health plan they could keep it.

Alice of Dennison, Ohio, contacted my office and let me know that her insurance premium went from \$235 to \$520 a month, more than doubling. Alice told me that she goes to bed at night wondering how she will pay for the increased premiums. But Alice isn't alone. Her story is just one of the many stories from Ohio I have received.

We must continue to fight this misguided law and work to return control and choice of health care to the American people. Hardworking Americans deserve better than ObamaCare.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DR. PAMELA TRANSUE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Dr. Pamela Transue, who has served as Tacoma Community College's president for 17 years.

President Transue has established an effective and successful learning environment that has opened doors of opportunity for its students. Under her tenure, Tacoma Community College has become a more vibrant and modern place, and her efforts have brought the college national recognition. As a former board member of Tacoma Community College, I saw firsthand how she helped shape the lives of countless students.

Alongside her service as president, she has also been actively engaged in the community, whether giving a speech at the Metropolitan Development Council breakfast or participating in a local economic development association. Dr. Transue has long recognized that education and job growth and self-sufficiency all go hand in hand.

Dr. Transue will retire at the close of this year, and with her retirement, she will be one of the longest serving presidents in higher education in Washington State's history, serving as Tacoma Community College's president for almost one-third of the college's existence.

Her nearly two decades as president of Tacoma Community College have impacted our region's economy and generations of students young and old. I am pleased to recognize her service today in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING PHIL HOGAN, JOSH ALLEN, JAMES WESTON ABBOTT, AND SHEA LASSETER

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Phil Hogan, Josh Allen, James Weston Ab-

bott, and Shea Lasseter for their work for Coweta-Fayette electric cooperative, located in my district, and Habersham electric cooperative.

Coweta-Fayette initiated a partnership with Habersham for these gentlemen to travel to Costa Rica as volunteers for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation. They helped construct an electric distribution system and worked alongside employees at Coopeguanacaste, the electric co-op in the town of Guanacaste.

Their volunteer efforts included extending access to electricity for families in this community. Electricity is a critical element in improving the quality of life. It enables better health care, education, clean water, and other vital services. These men also shared safety and best construction practices with the Costa Rican cooperative employees.

NRECA International has been active in rural electrification development in Costa Rica since 1963. The four electric cooperatives in Costa Rica serve approximately 750,000 folks. Thanks to these volunteers, more families in the world now have a chance for a better life.

Thank you, Phil Hogan, Josh Allen, James Weston Abbott, and Shea Lasseter for your hard work and dedication.

□ 0915

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, December 15 will mark the 1-year anniversary of the conflict in South Sudan. Since fighting broke out last December, a humanitarian crisis has plagued this young nation. Almost 2 million people have been displaced, and an estimated 50,000 civilian deaths have occurred. And the situation is only likely to get worse in the coming months.

The United States has played a vital role in supporting an independent South Sudan, and we have a vital role moving forward to ensure that the conflict does not deteriorate.

As we have seen in protracted crises around the world, such as in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the longer that a conflict continues and tears at the social fabric of a country, the more difficult reconciliation becomes.

As cochairs of the bipartisan Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. CAPUANO of Massachusetts, and myself are urging Members to sign a letter with us to the administration requesting the President to increase his political and diplomatic efforts to help bring this conflict to an end and to prevent further bloodshed.

With 1.5 million people experiencing food insecurity in South Sudan, now is

the time to ensure that we use diplomacy to bring this crisis to an end. So we are asking you to join us in this effort because we must continue to work in a bipartisan way with the administration to increase our political and diplomatic efforts.

THE PRESIDENT'S LAWLESS IMMIGRATION OVERREACH

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, President Obama came to Nashville to defend his unconstitutional immigration overreaches, but Tennesseans aren't buying it.

I asked my constituents what questions they would ask the President during his visit to the Volunteer State, and the response was overwhelming. Penny in Springfield asked, "Why has he chosen to ignore the voice of the people on the immigration issue?"

Janice in Gordonsville asked, "What does he say to the legal immigrants who obeyed the law to become citizens?"

And Kimberly in White House simply says, "I want to know why our laws are no longer valid."

My constituents said it best. We are a Nation of laws, and this lawless immigration overreach must not stand.

WHERE IS OUR AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE?

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on August 8 of this year, we went to war with ISIL. Since that day, we have launched over 1,700 airstrikes, we have put thousands of men and women in harm's way, we have committed billions of dollars, and the President has said this effort will take years.

Many of my colleagues and I have waited patiently for Congress to deliberate on the Authorization for Use of Military Force; yet all of these months later, we have not had a single debate. We recessed this summer without debate. We passed a defense bill last week without debate. And now, once again, we are leaving town without debate.

Mr. Speaker, it is the duty of this Congress to make determinations of war and peace, and we are shamefully ducking this responsibility. America deserves better.

AUTHORITY TO FILE REPORTS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all committees may have until 5 p.m. on December 30, 2014, to file reports to accompany measures.

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

There was no objection.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

**SOLEDAD CANYON SETTLEMENT
ACT**

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5742) to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA-20139 and CA-22901, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5742

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 “Soledad Canyon Settlement Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.**—The term “City of Santa Clarita” means the City of Santa Clarita, California.

(2) **CITY OF VICTORVILLE.**—The term “City of Victorville” means the City of Victorville, California.

(3) **CONTRACTS.**—The term “contracts” means the Bureau of Land Management mineral contracts numbered CA-20139 and CA-22901.

(4) **CONTRACT HOLDER.**—The term “contract holder” means the private party to the contracts, and any successors that hold legal interests in the contracts.

(5) **COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO.**—The term “County of San Bernardino” means the County of San Bernardino, California.

(6) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Victorville disposal area, California” and dated March 2011.

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) **VICTORVILLE DISPOSAL AREA.**—The term “Victorville disposal area” means the 10,206.05 acres of land identified for disposal in the West Mojave Land Management Plan (2006) of the Bureau of Land Management and depicted on the Map.

SEC. 3. APPRAISAL; COMPENSATION TO CONTRACT HOLDER.

(a) **APPRAISALS.**—

(1) **CONTRACT APPRAISAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall determine by mineral appraisal, using the discounted cash flow method of appraisal (in accordance with the appraisal guidelines for appraisals of large quantities of mineral materials contained in section IV(E) of BLM Mineral Material Appraisal Handbook H-3630)—

(i) the fair market value of the contracts; and

(ii) the amount of royalties the Federal Government would receive under the contracts over the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In making the determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall assume that—

(i) the contract holder has obtained all the permits and entitlements necessary to mine, produce, and sell sand and gravel under the contract; and

(ii) mining operations under the contract have commenced at the time of the determination, with maximum annual production volumes that—

(I) are based on the projected supply and demand outlook at the time of determination; and

(II) reflect depletion of the reserves that are subject to the contract within the effective periods of the contract.

(C) **DONATION.**—The Secretary shall provide to the contract holder and the City of Santa Clarita a list of approved appraisers from which the parties shall select and provide the funding to cover the costs of the appraisal under subparagraph (A).

(2) **LAND APPRAISAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall determine by appraisal standards under existing laws and regulations, the fair market value of the Victorville disposal area on a net present value basis.

(B) **DONATION.**—The Secretary shall provide to the contract holder and the City of Santa Clarita a list of approved appraisers from which the parties shall select and provide the funding to cover the costs of the appraisal under subparagraph (A).

(b) **COMPENSATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 30 days after completion of the appraisals under subsection (a), the Secretary shall offer the contract holder compensation for the cancellation of the contracts.

(2) **CONDITIONS ON OFFER.**—An offer made by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the following conditions:

(A) The cancellation of the contracts and the provision of compensation shall be contingent on the availability of funds from the sale of the Victorville disposal area under section 4, and any additional compensation provided under subparagraph (D), as determined necessary by the Secretary.

(B) The amount of compensation offered by the Secretary under this subsection shall be equal to or less than the fair market value of the contracts, as determined under subsection (a)(1)(A)(i).

(C) The amount of compensation offered by the Secretary under this subsection shall be equal to or less than the projected revenues generated by the sale of the Victorville disposal area under section 4, less the projected lost royalties to the Federal Government over the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, as determined under subsection (a)(1)(A)(ii).

(D) If the amount of projected revenues described in subparagraph (C) is less than the fair market value determined under subsection (a)(1)(A)(i), the Secretary shall, not later than 60 days after the date on which the Director of the Bureau of Land Management determines the projected revenues under subparagraph (C), negotiate an agreement with the contract holder and the City of Santa Clarita to provide to the Secretary amounts equal to the difference, in the form of—

(i) compensation to be received by the contract holder; and

(ii) compensation in a form acceptable to the Secretary to be provided by the City of Santa Clarita.

(3) **ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The contract holder shall have 60 days from the later of the date on

which the Secretary makes the offer under paragraph (1) or an agreement is negotiated under paragraph (2)(D) to accept the offer or agreement.

(B) **FAILURE TO ACCEPT OFFER.**—If the contract holder does not accept the offer under paragraph (1) or if an agreement is not negotiated under paragraph (2)(D) within the time period described in subparagraph (A), the contracts shall remain in effect and no further actions shall be taken pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 4. SALE OF LAND NEAR VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713) and subject to subsections (b) through (f), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall place on the market and offer for sale by competitive bidding and in a manner designed to obtain the highest price possible, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Victorville disposal area.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The Secretary shall keep the Map on file and available for public inspection in—

(1) the office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(2) the district office of the Bureau of Land Management located in Barstow, California.

(c) **RIGHT OF LOCAL LAND USE AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE CERTAIN LAND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before a sale of land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide to the applicable local land use authority an exclusive preemptive right, as determined under State law, to purchase any right, title, or interest of the United States in and to any portion of the parcels of land identified as “Area A” and “Area B” on the Map that is located within the jurisdiction of the local land use authority.

(2) **TIMING.**—A preemptive right under paragraph (1) shall be in effect for a period of 30 days before the land is sold under subsection (a).

(3) **AUTHORITY.**—During the period described in paragraph (2), the local land use authority may purchase some or all of the right, title, and interest of the United States, as provided in subsection (a), in and to the land to be offered for sale at fair market value, as determined by an appraisal conducted by the Secretary.

(4) **EXERCISING RIGHT.**—If the local land use authority exercises the preemptive right under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall convey the land to the local land use authority immediately on payment by the local land use authority of the entire purchase price of the applicable parcel of land.

(5) **FAILURE TO PAY.**—Failure by the local land use authority to purchase and pay for the right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (1) within the time period described in paragraph (2) and to comply with any other terms and conditions as the Secretary may require shall terminate the preemptive right of the local land use authority with respect to the right, title, and interest offered for sale.

(d) **WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION.**—

(1) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the land described in subsection (a) is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(2) **RESERVATION.**—In any sale or other disposal of land under this section, there shall be reserved by the United States the right of