

SUPPORT THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, once again, the Republican leadership in Congress is bringing us to the brink, this time by endangering hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs by threatening the Export-Import Bank.

The Export-Import Bank gives American manufacturers the tools that they need to sell U.S. goods overseas. That is direct and real support for American businesses and real jobs for American workers, and it is all at no cost to the taxpayers.

For ideological reasons, this Bank could close by June 30 if Congress does not act. It is more of the same of this sort of reckless brinkmanship and irresponsible behavior that we have seen from the Republican leadership in Congress.

One might ask: Why would you threaten hundreds of thousands of American jobs just to make an ideological point? If you want to make a point, send a letter; don't threaten the American worker to pursue an extreme ideological agenda.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. Let's end the political games. Let's get back to the work we were sent here to do and support the Export-Import Bank and our small businesses and the hard-working Americans that depend upon that.

HONORING DR. RICHARD HELTON

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Hoosier, Dr. Richard Helton, the retiring president of Vincennes University.

Few have exemplified the university's timeless motto, "Learn in order to serve," more clearly than Dr. Helton. Under his dynamic leadership, this 214-year-old institution founded by our ninth President, William Henry Harrison, has become a cutting-edge center for career and technical education that offers students tangible, employable skills and an opportunity for lifelong growth.

Throughout his career, Dr. Helton has maintained a commitment to public education that has positively impacted the lives of countless students. Our State has benefited greatly from his vision and will forever be indebted for his service.

Best wishes to Dick and Cindy Helton in the future ahead.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as of today, we have only 11 more legislative

days to act in order to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

Reauthorizing the Bank is common sense. Sadly, however, the opponents of the Bank are operating out of ideological fervor, not on facts. We should be here dealing with and solving real problems, not endangering American jobs with fantastical ideology.

The truth of the matter is that the Bank is a vital free market economic engine for our manufacturers, for exporters, and job creators. Last year alone, the Bank financed \$4 billion worth of exports in my home State of Texas, supporting thousands of hard-working Americans.

We cannot and should not let the Bank expire. Let's put an end to this nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, I want to vote in our House of Representatives on this issue.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN SERGEANT HARRISON DOYLE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to talk about one of my heroic constituents, World War II veteran Sergeant Harrison Doyle.

Sergeant Doyle was assigned the task of recreating maps as a cartographer based on the remains of destroyed Nazi maps and aerial photography.

Sergeant Doyle served in three theaters, including the Battle of the Bulge. His contributions were crucial in recreating the topography into maps that were used to win the Battle of the Bulge.

Dedicated caseworkers in my office were able to help him recover lost personnel records. They worked tirelessly to get Sergeant Doyle's personnel records and medals, including the European-African-Middle East Campaign with Bronze Star attachment to give him the recognition he deserves.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Doyle. Helping heroes like him and any constituents being stonewalled by a Federal agency makes this job more meaningful.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1502

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 3 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

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.

UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2088) to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to improve inspection services performed at export elevators at export port locations, to reauthorize certain authorities of the Secretary of Agriculture under such Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2088

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 "United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT.

(a) POLICY AND PURPOSE OF ACT.—Section 2(b) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 74(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "to both domestic and foreign buyers" and inserting "responsive to the purchase specifications of domestic and foreign buyers";

(2) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2);

(3) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) to provide an accurate, reliable, consistently available, and cost-effective official grain inspection and weighing system."

(b) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) MAJOR DISASTER DEFINED.—Section 3 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 75) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(aa) The term 'major disaster' has the meaning given that term in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)), except that the term includes a severe weather incident causing a region-wide interruption of government services."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 75) is further amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (a), by striking "otherwise—" and inserting "otherwise";

(B) by striking "the term" at the beginning of each paragraph (other than paragraphs (n) and (t)) and inserting "The term";

(C) in paragraph (i)—

(i) by striking "Act (the term)" and inserting "Act. The term"; and

(ii) by striking ")," and inserting a period;

(D) in paragraphs (n) and (t), by striking "the terms" and inserting "The terms";

(E) in paragraph (o)—

(i) by striking "personnel (the term)" and inserting "personnel. The term"; and

(ii) by striking ")," and inserting a period;

(F) in paragraph (s), by striking "the verb" and inserting "The verb";

(G) in paragraph (x)—

(i) by striking “conveyance (the terms” and inserting “conveyance. The terms”; and

(ii) by striking “accordingly;” and inserting “accordingly.”;

(H) by striking the semicolon at the end of each paragraph (other than paragraphs (i), (o), (x), and (y)) and inserting a period; and

(I) in paragraph (y), by striking “; and” and inserting a period.

(c) OFFICIAL INSPECTION AND WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DISCRETIONARY WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Section 5(a)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 77(a)(1)) is amended in the first proviso by striking “may waive the foregoing requirement in emergency” and inserting “shall promptly waive the foregoing requirement in the event of an emergency, a major disaster.”

(2) WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS AT EXPORT ELEVATORS.—Section 5(a)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 77(a)(2)) is amended by striking “intracompany shipments of grain into an export elevator by any mode of transportation, grain transferred into an export elevator by transportation modes other than barge,” and inserting “shipments of grain into an export elevator by any mode of transportation”.

(d) DELEGATION OF OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY.—

(1) AUTHORIZED INSPECTION PERSONNEL AT EXPORT ELEVATORS AT EXPORT PORT LOCATIONS.—Paragraph (1) of section 7(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, the Secretary shall cause official inspection at export elevators at export port locations, for all grain required or authorized to be inspected by this Act, to be performed—

“(A) by official inspection personnel employed by the Secretary; or

“(B) by other persons under contract with the Secretary as provided in section 8 of this Act.”

(2) DELEGATION TO STATE AGENCIES.—Section 7(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “, meets the criteria” and all that follows through “the Secretary may delegate” and inserting “and meets the criteria specified in subsection (f)(1)(A) of this section, the Secretary may delegate”;

(ii) by striking “at export port locations within the State, including export port locations” and inserting “at export elevators at export port locations within the State, including at export elevators at export port locations”; and

(iii) in the last sentence, by striking “Any such delegation” and inserting “The delegation under this paragraph of authority to conduct official inspection services shall be for a term not to exceed five years, and may be renewed thereafter in accordance with this subsection, except that any such delegation”;

(B) by transferring paragraph (4) to the end of subsection (f), redesignating such paragraph as paragraph (5), and, in such paragraph, by striking “or subsection (f)” and inserting “or subsection (e)”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(3) Prior to delegating authority to a State agency for the performance of official inspection services at export elevators at export port locations pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary shall comply with the following:

“(A) Upon receipt of an application from a State agency requesting the delegation of authority to perform official inspection services on behalf of the Secretary, publish no-

tice of the application in the Federal Register and provide a minimum 30-day comment period on the application.

“(B) Evaluate the comments received under subparagraph (A) with respect to an application and conduct an investigation to determine whether the State agency that submitted the application and its personnel are qualified to perform official inspection services on behalf of the Secretary. In conducting the investigation, the Secretary shall consult with, and review the available files of the Department of Justice, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture, and the Government Accountability Office.

“(C) Make findings based on the results of the investigation and consideration of public comments received.

“(D) Publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing whether the State agency has been delegated the authority to perform official inspection services at export elevators at export port locations on behalf of the Secretary, and the basis upon which the Secretary has made the decision.

“(4)(A) Except in the case of a major disaster, if a State agency that has been delegated the authority to perform official inspection services at export elevators at export port locations on behalf of the Secretary fails to perform such official services, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, within 90 days after the first day on which inspection services were not performed by the delegated State agency, a report containing—

“(i) the reasons for the State agency’s failure; and

“(ii) the rationale as to whether or not the Secretary will permit the State agency to retain its delegated authority.

“(B) A State agency may request that the delegation of inspection authority to the agency be canceled by providing written notice to the Secretary at least 90 days in advance of the requested cancellation date.

“(C) If a State agency that has been delegated the authority under paragraph (2) of this subsection to perform official inspection services at an export elevator at an export port location on behalf of the Secretary intends to temporarily discontinue such official inspection services or weighing services for any reason, except in the case of a major disaster, the State agency shall notify the Secretary in writing of its intention to do so at least 72 hours in advance of the discontinuation date. The receipt of such prior notice shall be considered by the Secretary as a mitigating factor in determining whether to maintain or revoke the delegation of authority to the State agency.”

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(A) Section 7(f)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(1)) is amended by striking “other than at export port locations” and inserting “(other than at an export elevator at an export port location)”.

(B) Section 16(d) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87e(d)) is amended by striking “The Office of Investigation of the Department of Agriculture (or such other organization or agency within the Department of Agriculture which may be delegated the authority, in lieu thereof, to conduct investigations on behalf of the Department of Agriculture)” and inserting “The Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture”.

(4) EVALUATION OF CURRENT DELEGATIONS.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall complete a review of each State agency that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, has been delegated inspection authority under section 7(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C.

79(e)) and determine if the State agency is qualified to continue to perform official inspection services at export elevators at export port locations on behalf of the Secretary under such section, as amended by this subsection. The Secretary shall conduct the review subject to the requirements of section 7(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(e)), as amended by this subsection, and a State agency determined to be qualified to continue to perform such official inspection services shall be subject thereafter to such requirements.

(e) CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS.—Section 7(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(e)) is further amended by inserting after paragraph (4), as added by subsection (d), the following new paragraphs:

“(5) Except in the case of a major disaster, the Secretary shall cause official inspections at an export elevator at an export port location—

“(A) to be performed without interruption by official inspection personnel employed by the Secretary or by a State agency delegated such authority under paragraph (2) of this subsection; or

“(B) if interrupted, to be resumed at the export elevator by utilizing official inspection personnel employed by the Secretary or by another delegated State agency as provided under paragraph (2) of this subsection as follows:

“(i) Within six hours after the interruption, if the interruption is caused by a State agency delegated such authority under this subsection and the Secretary received advance notice of the interruption pursuant to paragraph (4)(C) of this subsection.

“(ii) Within 12 hours after the interruption, if the State agency failed to provide the required advance notice of the interruption.

“(6)(A) If the Secretary is unable to restore official inspection services within the applicable time period required by paragraph (5)(B) of this subsection, the interested person requesting such services at the export elevator at an export port location shall be authorized to utilize official inspection personnel, as provided under section 8 of the Act, employed by another State agency delegated authority under paragraph (2) of this subsection or designated under subsection (f)(1) of this section.

“(B) A delegated or designated State agency providing inspection services under subparagraph (A) may, at its discretion, provide such services for a period of up to 90 days from the date on which the services are initiated, after which time the Secretary may restore official inspection services using official inspection personnel employed by the Secretary or a State agency delegated such authority under this subsection, if available. The State agency shall notify the Secretary in writing of its intention to discontinue inspection services under subparagraph (A) at least 72 hours in advance of the discontinuation date.

“(7) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall make available to the public, including pursuant to a website maintained by the Secretary, a list of all delegated States and all official agencies authorized to perform official inspections on behalf of the Secretary. This list shall include the name, contact information, and category of authority granted. The Secretary shall update the list at least semiannually.”

(f) GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES FOR OFFICIAL AGENCIES.—

(1) OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY.—Section 7(f)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(f)(2)) is amended by striking “the Secretary may” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting the following: “the Secretary shall

allow a designated official agency to cross boundary lines to carry out inspections in another geographic area if—

“(A) the current designated official agency for that geographic area is unable to provide inspection services in a timely manner;

“(B) a person requesting inspection services in that geographic area requests a probe inspection on a barge-lot basis; or

“(C) the current official agency for that geographic area agrees in writing with the adjacent official agency to waive the current geographic area restriction at the request of the applicant for service.”.

(2) **WEIGHING AUTHORITY.**—Section 7A(i)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a(i)(2)) is amended by striking “the Secretary may” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting the following: “the Secretary shall allow a designated official agency to cross boundary lines to carry out weighing in another geographic area if—

“(A) the current designated official agency for that geographic area is unable to provide weighing services in a timely manner; or

“(B) the current official agency for that geographic area agrees in writing with the adjacent official agency to waive the current geographic area restriction at the request of the applicant for service.”.

(g) **DURATION OF DESIGNATIONS OF OFFICIAL AGENCIES.**—Section 7(g)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(g)(1)) is amended by striking “triennially” and inserting “every five years”.

(h) **INSPECTION FEES.**—

(1) **COLLECTION AND AMOUNTS.**—Section 7(j)(1) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(j)(1)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “(A)” after “(1)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) For official inspections and weighing at an export elevator at an export port location performed by the Secretary, performed by a State agency delegated the authority to perform official inspection services at the export elevator on behalf of the Secretary, or performed by a State agency utilized as authorized by subsection (e)(6)(A), the portion of the fees based upon export tonnage shall be based upon a rolling five-year average of export tonnage volumes. In order to maintain an operating reserve of between three to six months, the Secretary shall adjust such fees at least annually.”.

(2) **DURATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Section 7(j)(4) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79(j)(4)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(i) **OFFICIAL WEIGHING OR SUPERVISION AT LOCATIONS WHERE OFFICIAL INSPECTION IS PROVIDED OTHER THAN BY THE SECRETARY.**—Section 7A(c)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “with respect to export port locations” and inserting “with respect to an export elevator at an export port location”; and

(2) in the last sentence by striking “subsection (g) of section 7” and inserting “subsection (e) and (g) of section 7”.

(j) **COLLECTION OF FEES FOR WEIGHING SERVICES.**—Section 7A(1)(3) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a(1)(2)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(k) **LIMITATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY COSTS.**—Section 7D of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79d) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(l) **ISSUANCE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **DURATION.**—Section 8(b) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 84(b)) is

amended by striking “triennially” and inserting “every five years”.

(2) **PERSONS WHO MAY BE HIRED AS OFFICIAL INSPECTION PERSONNEL.**—Section 8(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 84(e)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(on the date of enactment of the United States Grain Standards Act of 1976)”;

(B) by striking “the United States Grain Standards Act” and inserting “this Act”; and

(C) by striking “, on the date of enactment of the United States Grain Standards Act of 1976, was performing” and inserting “performs”.

(m) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 19 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87h) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(n) **EXPIRATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—Section 21(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87j(e)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(o) **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**—Section 17B(b) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f-2(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “notwithstanding the provisions of section 812 of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as added by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c-3)” and inserting “notwithstanding section 602 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5712)”;

(2) by striking “or the Secretary”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and rise today in support of H.R. 2088, the United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly 100 years, the United States Grain Standards Act has been the cornerstone of the vibrant grain trade, both domestically and internationally. This law is relied upon not only by exporters and domestic shippers but the entire U.S. agricultural sector.

The law establishes official marketing standards and procedures for the inspection and weighing of grains and oilseeds, and I would like to underscore the importance this law has played in establishing value and price-discovery in the grain and oilseed marketplace.

Many of the provisions in this current law are set to expire on September 30 of this year. A lapse in authorization would disrupt export weighing and grading services, imposing heavy burdens on farmers, merchants, traders, inspectors and, ultimately, consumers.

We should not delay in passing this reauthorization.

I cannot emphasize enough: it is imperative that these inspections and weighing services are provided in a reliable, uninterrupted, consistent, and cost-effective manner. To ensure that we fulfill this obligation, we must provide a safeguard to ensure we avoid disruptions in service like the one that took place last year in Washington State.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture currently provides inspection and weighing services for grain intended for export at the Port of Vancouver. USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service has delegated this responsibility to the Washington State Department of Agriculture. In the event that the Washington State Department of Agriculture cannot provide services for any reason, then the Federal Government, through FGIS inspectors, are statutorily required to step in and resume inspection and weighing services.

That is not what happened last summer. Amid an ongoing labor dispute, WSDA discontinued services. In statements issued at the time, WSDA, the State-based program, acknowledged they withheld inspection services because of their belief that “the continued provision of inspection services appears to be unhelpful in leading to a foreseeable resolution” of the labor dispute.

Instead of fulfilling their statutory obligation, the leadership of the USDA politicized this situation when the agency also declined to fulfill its statutory responsibility to resume inspection and grain and weighing services. Services were eventually restored, but not before significant costs accrued to all parties involved.

We have worked hard to gain access to overseas markets. We are shooting ourselves in the foot when we cannot ship our products to these markets because State and Federal agencies are unable or unwilling to comply with their obligations. The inability to ship our grain because there are no inspectors at a facility does a disservice to our farmers, and it harms our economy.

To address this situation, we could have been punitive. In fact, there were some who would have preferred that we do just that. But that is not what we have done and had no interest in doing. We simply want a safeguard mechanism to avoid this situation being repeated.

To do that, we worked with the State of Washington delegation, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, labor unions, the grain trade industry, and USDA. What we developed was a bipartisan consensus on a workable safeguard provision.

I am pleased with this work product, and I appreciate the help and support of Ranking Member PETERSON, Subcommittee Chairman CRAWFORD, and Subcommittee Ranking Member WALZ,

as well as Representatives from Washington State, both on and off the committee, for their advice and counsel as we developed this legislation.

H.R. 2088 provides a certainty to American agriculture, and I would urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill.

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I, too, rise in support of the U.S. Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act, H.R. 2088.

I would like to, first of all, thank the chairmen of the full committee and of the subcommittee, both of whom provided great leadership, provided the necessary space to get all parties together, and then provided for a final product that meets all of the necessary requirements that you heard the chairman talk about.

I think it is well known that U.S. grain producers produce the highest quality grain in the world. It is the inspections of them, the gold standard of assuring that quality, backed by the Federal Government, that allows us to continue this trade. I think no one here wants to see any interruption to that service. No one here wants to see any lowering of the quality that we have.

So this piece of legislation, I think, in the best tradition of the Agriculture Committee and this House, was a true, bipartisan compromise. It was working to find working solutions that made those things happen, and I would urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

This is how we are supposed to do business. This honors those producers of our grain and makes sure that business and capital flow correctly, and it makes sure that there are standards in place to ensure that our buyers of U.S. grain know that they are getting the world’s highest quality product.

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), the subcommittee chairman.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this and certainly want to thank the ranking member of the full committee as well and my friend, the gentleman from Minnesota, who serves as the ranking member on our subcommittee.

This is a great piece of bipartisan legislation. As has been noted here, this is about 100 years since this has been signed into law, and the grain trade has thrived over that century. GSA has supported its evolution by providing a backbone of stability relied upon by exporters, shippers, farmers, and, of course, consumers.

With the farm economy and so many of our constituents relying on the ability of grain and oilseeds to get to market, it is critical that we act to provide stability for the grain trade, like we are doing here today.

This legislation accomplishes that goal in the following two ways. Many of the provisions in current law are set to expire on September 30 of this year. A lapse in that authorization would disrupt the current grain inspections process; therefore, Congress should not delay in passing its reauthorization. The House is getting its job done well ahead of schedule by considering this bill today, and I hope my colleagues in the Senate will act soon as well.

Secondly, this legislation provides stability by ensuring we can avoid disruptions like that which took place last year in Washington State, which was alluded to earlier by the chairman. Last summer, the Washington State Department of Agriculture discontinued its export inspections amid an ongoing labor dispute. Since labor disputes do happen from time to time, this kind of situation was anticipated by our predecessors, which is why current law provides a mechanism for USDA to step in and provide inspection services in the event of a disruption.

However, the dispute devolved into a political situation in which the Secretary of Agriculture declined to use his discretionary authority to maintain inspections. While inspection services were eventually restored, it is critical we avoid a repeat of that unfortunate decision.

Fortunately, the Agriculture Committee arrived at a bipartisan consensus and found a way to avoid any future disruptions to the grain trade by giving the industry more control of its own destiny.

I urge support from my colleagues for this vital legislation. I thank the committee for all of its hard work to move this bill forward.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, again, I have no further speakers on my side. I can’t stress enough my thanks for working this out. It was, at times, a somewhat delicate situation, but leadership from my friends on the Republican side, bringing in folks, all engaged parties in this, helped us find a great compromise.

I, too, would urge our colleagues in the Senate to take up this piece of legislation, move it forward, and give certainty to those producers who feed, clothe, and power the world. I urge our colleagues here, let’s just pass this thing and get further work done.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues’ comments, both the ranking member as well as the chairman of the subcommittee. We did work in a bipartisan manner. We worked out the differences of the bill, came up with a good work product. It is worthy of the system.

I would like to, again, emphasize, as my colleague from Arkansas did, we are actually getting this done ahead of time. These rules aren’t out-of-date yet. And so I would encourage my col-

leagues in the Senate to follow our example and get it done quickly so we can get this to the President’s desk. I urge support of the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2088, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING ACT OF 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2051) to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2051

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 “Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING.

(a) *EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.*—Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) *EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.*—Section 212(12)(C) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635a(12)(C)) is amended by inserting “, including any day on which any Department employee is on shutdown or emergency furlough as a result of a lapse in appropriations” after “conduct business”.

(c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106–78) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

SEC. 3. SWINE REPORTING.

(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 231 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635i) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through (22) as paragraphs (10) through (23), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

“(9) *NEGOTIATED FORMULA PURCHASE.*—The term “negotiated formula purchase” means a purchase of swine by a packer from a producer under which—

“(A) the pricing mechanism is a formula price for which the formula is determined by negotiation on a lot-by-lot basis; and

“(B) the swine are scheduled for delivery to the packer not later than 14 days after the date on which the formula is negotiated and swine are committed to the packer.”;

(3) in paragraph (12)(A) (as so redesignated), by inserting “negotiated formula purchase,” after “pork market formula purchase.”; and

(4) in paragraph (23) (as so redesignated)—
(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;