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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Randy Bezet, Bayside Community Church, Bradenton, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, we humbly come before You today, and we thank You for Your love and Your Grace and Your peace that is made available to us all.

God, we ask for Your divine wisdom and guidance here today, for You and You alone know the future and the things that are to come. We ask that You would lead us in the decisions we are a part of and that You would give us boldness to honor You.

Would You empower every man and woman in this room to use the life You have given them for good? Let us be leaders who follow Your example, leaders who love sacrificially, give selflessly, and serve graciously. May we all do our best to impact this incredible Nation of ours for the better.

We ask Your blessing on this House and on our United States of America.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR RANDY BEZET

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to welcome to the United States Capitol a tremendous community and spiritual leader, Pastor Randy Bezet, who led us in the opening prayer this morning.

Pastor Bezet is the senior and founding pastor of Bayside Community Church, which has several campuses located throughout my district. His church has been at the forefront of strengthening, encouraging, and serving the people of Sarasota and Bradenton, Florida. The pastor is an inspirational leader who mentors young pastors who are also passionate about revitalizing and restoring local churches in their communities.

I applaud the work and service the pastor and his church do in southwest Florida. It is a great honor and a privilege for me to welcome the pastor before Congress today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HAPPY 104TH BIRTHDAY, EDNA YODER

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a very special occasion, to wish my grandmother, Edna Yoder, a happy 104th birthday. That is right. She is 104 years of age. The Lord has blessed my grandmother with great health and longevity, and I cannot be more thankful for her or proud of my grandmother on her birthday this upcoming Sunday.

She is a true example of what has made America such a strong and vibrant nation. Born in 1911 and one of 14 children, she worked tirelessly on the farm, milking cows at dawn and bringing in the wheat harvest in the hot Kansas sun.

She has seen hard times, and she has seen good times over the past 104 years with a front seat to the great American century, but through it all, her faith in God and love of family define her life. She is a sweet, caring, and loving woman who continues to inspire me each and every day in so many ways.

Today, Grandma, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I wish you a very happy 104th birthday.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is set to expire in less than 100 days, unless Congress takes action.

We have a generational responsibility to protect our Nation's remaining natural wilderness areas for our children and grandchildren. For over 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been an instrumental tool in this effort, and it has been used in almost every single county in the United States.

LWCF protects and expands access to recreational areas and preserves our treasured natural and historic landscapes. It does not cost taxpayer

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money or contribute to the Federal deficit. In fact, according to a recent economic analysis, every dollar invested in the conservation of public lands through the LWCF leads to $4 in economic activity to local communities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the permanent reauthorization of the LWCF, ensuring that it remains one of our Nation's most successful conservation tools.

BRINGING HEALTH CARE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to personalize and modernize our healthcare system and bring it into the 21st century.

We have an opportunity through the 21st Century Cures Act to pass bipartisan reforms that will accelerate the discovery, development, deployment, and delivery of lifesaving and life-improving techniques and cures.

The 21st Century Cures Act is the result of bipartisan work to ensure that our regulatory system keeps pace with the advances we are seeing in our science and technology fields. 21st Century Cures will make a difference in people's lives.

For the 10,000 known diseases, there are only 500 FDA-approved treatments. By removing barriers to research and development, by modernizing clinical trials, and by incorporating more patient perspectives, we can more effectively develop treatments and cures to fight cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases that affect millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, we will have the opportunity to help bring the newest, cutting-edge medical technology to the people who need it the most.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am standing here today because the clock is ticking. Today is the last legislative day to prevent the shutdown of the Export-Import Bank and avoid disaster for our economy.

I have in my hand, sir, a letter regarding dozens of businesses in my district, the 14th District of Michigan, that rely on the Ex-Im Bank. It is clear the dire consequences if Congress does not act.

In 7 years, Ex-Im has supported $93 million in exports and nearly 600 jobs just in my district. This year alone, more than half a million dollars has been financed for businesses in the 14th District. All of this was done at no cost to our taxpayers.

To reduce the deficit, to create more jobs, to remain globally competitive, we must reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank.

ELSON FLOYD

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in memory of Washington State University president, Dr. Elson Floyd, who passed away on June 20, after a courageous battle against cancer.

Dr. Floyd was a giant for eastern Washington. He embodied the values we seek in our leaders. He was visionary. He was kindhearted. He was a fearless and passionate advocate for higher education, our region, and our State. He had the gift of making our dreams seem possible and of turning our aspirations into a reality.

It has been my privilege to know him and call him friend. During this difficult time, my prayers continue to be with his wife, his children, and the whole WSU family. Together, Washingtonians are inspired and will carry on his legacy.

Thank you, Dr. Floyd, for your tireless work. Rest in peace.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my many colleagues in highlighting the urgency of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank.

On Monday, I visited a steel company in New Castle, Delaware, called V&S Delaware Galvanizing. This small business employees 60 hard-working Delawareans. Their jobs depend on the financing provided by the Export-Import Bank. The failure to authorize the Bank would be a failure to support and protect these and many other jobs in Delaware.

If we are serious about making things here in America, if we are serious about providing good middle class jobs to people who need them, if we are serious about creating an economy that is built to last, we will reauthorize the Export-Import Bank before it expires next week.

The Ex-Im Bank creates jobs across the country. It sustains those jobs, and it also reduces the deficit. Last year alone, the Bank returned $700 million to the United States Treasury, and it supports 160,000 U.S. jobs.

This shouldn't be a partisan issue, and it never has been in the past. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to come together and take action today to ensure that the Export-Import Bank can continue to grow our economy and create jobs across our country.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, in less than a week, the deadline for the administration's negotiations with Iran will pass. Many people, including myself, have serious concerns about the status and the outcome of these negotiations.

Iran's nuclear ambitions are a threat to the Middle East, especially to our closest ally, Israel. I remain skeptical of Iran's commitment to disarmament and transparency.

I believe there are five key issues that must be addressed for this to be a good deal for America and Israel.

One, unrestricted access to inspection locations on short notice—inspectors must be given complete access at any time and at any place for verification inspections.

Two, Iran must disclose the entirety of its previous activities and efforts towards a nuclear weapon.

Three, sanctions must remain in place until Iran complies and proves its compliance, and we must show commitment to a robust response to any violation.

Four, any deal must be long term, and it must not include the development of and access to nuclear weapons.

Finally, any negotiations must include provisions that require Iran to dismantle its program completely with no path to a weapon in the future.

I believe that only if these conditions are met should Congress and the American people even consider a deal with Iran.

SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting equality and dignity for every American regardless of whom one loves.

Very soon, the Supreme Court will make an historic decision about the rights of LGBT couples and families, and it is my hope they will respect that each of us deserves as an American citizen the ability to have a family and to love whom one loves.

The economic downturn illustrated how important it is for all families to access the protections of civil marriage so they can live with more certainty and dignity even in challenging times.

No matter what the Court decides, we will keep pushing so people in loving, committed relationships throughout this Nation can say two simple words with extraordinary meaning: ''I do.'' We will keep fighting to ensure that people don't face discrimination based on whom they love.

Let me close with the words of President Kennedy, who said: ''In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country.''

ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in support of Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

Today, 5.3 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, including 200,000 who are younger than 65. When you include dementia and other brain diseases with Alzheimer's, the number of diagnoses is nearly on par with cancer diagnoses.

In fact, Alzheimer's, itself, is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and of the top 10 causes of death, Alzheimer's is the only one that today cannot be prevented, cannot be cured, and cannot be slowed.

This week, Congress is taking action. Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee approved an initial funding bill for the Department of Health and Human Services that provides a $300 million increase over last year's level for Alzheimer's research at the National Institute on Aging.

Additionally, the committee continues its support for the Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research Program at the Department of Defense.

These programs, coupled with several bills pending in the House, including the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, are a testament to the strong advocacy that we have been witnessing on Capitol Hill and throughout the country, but we must continue to do more.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in this fight and join me in raising awareness of this most critical national health concern.

□ 0915

RETURNING TO THE SENATE H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution constituting a question of the privileges of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 340

Resolved, That the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1735) entitled ''To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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'', in the opinion of this House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill, with the Senate amendment thereto, shall be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House.

Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

For what purpose does the gentleman from Michigan seek recognition?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object, only to say I do not object.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the gentleman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan withdraws his reservation.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1295, TRADE PREFERENCES EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 338 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 338

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1295) to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise this morning in support of a rule which would allow for an up-or-down vote in the House on the Senate amendment to H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act, so that it can be considered by the full House; and, if the bill passes, it will head to the President's desk along with the trade promotion authority for the President's signature.

This bill that would be considered after passage of this rule renews the Generalized System of Preferences program, extending the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and reauthorizes Trade Adjustment Assistance, known as TAA.

The activity on the floor of the House today represents a promise to Congress made by Speaker BOEHNER and Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL. After House Democrats voted down TAA last week, the House considered and passed TPA, with a bipartisan majority, and sent it to the Senate. In the meantime, the Speaker and the Senate majority leader promised that they would ensure that both TPA and TAA receive votes in the House and the Senate.

As promised, here we are today. The Senate yesterday delivered it, when it passed TPA 60–38, which is now headed to the President's desk for his signature. The Senate also passed the Senate amendment to H.R. 1295, which will be considered today under the rule which we are speaking about. The final legislative step is for the House to consider the Trade Preferences Extension Act, and that is exactly what the rule will do.

This rule and the underlying bill represents the end of a long process to deliver trade promotion authority on behalf of the American people. Mr. Speaker, it is a Republican agenda about jobs. By passing TPA, the House and the Senate proved to the world that America is willing to lead and to stand for jobs and interaction between great countries to help lead in the 21st century. We believe in the rule of law, we believe in intellectual property, and we believe in an opportunity for consumers to have the best products, wherever they are around the world, at a great price.

The world has responded, and our partner nations have indicated that they are now ready to begin the negotiation to bring their best deals to the table. As these negotiations heat up, it is vital that the administration follow the requirements of TPA, some 160 separate, specific items which this House and the legislation very clearly talks about. It will lead negotiation to a deal that is good for the American people. If the administration violates that promise, the House can turn off TPA and stop the process.

Once a trade agreement is completed, the President is required to make public the text of an agreement for 60 days before the President seeks approval to it. The President must then submit the final text of any trade agreement to Congress 30 days before it gets a vote. Because of this important transparency feature of TPA, the American people have seen a better process than

what existed today. We will have months to read the text of any deal before Congress votes on it.

Most importantly, though, Congress retains its right to vote up or down on any agreement. So if the President brings us a bad trade deal, we can and we would vote that down. This ensures that Congress, and only the U.S. Congress, can change and agree to any law or agreement that is made that becomes U.S. law.

We have also proved that Washington has learned from some States, like my home State of Texas, which benefit greatly from trade. Trade supports over 3 million jobs in Texas, and last year Texas exported $289 billion worth of goods and services to trading partners around the globe. Because of the process Congress has gone through the past few weeks, we can ensure that the growth, the availability of better jobs, and high-paying opportunities lie ahead for the American people.

At a time when it has become very difficult to create jobs in this country, we will, through trade promotion authority and these trade deals, offer new and great opportunities for more jobs and to build more American products and to sell more products around the globe.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman very much for yielding me the time, but the procedural jockeying that has unfolded before us does a disservice to our Chamber, to our economy, and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, without opportunity for Members to offer amendments, without clear consideration, and without, certainly, robust debate, the bills have bounced from one Chamber to another, jumped back and forth between in every iteration that can be cooked up.

The procedural machinations do deep disservice not only to the bills, but to the people it will impact, and I think even to the House of Representatives. Thomas Jefferson, who authored the legislative manual that guides our procedure, would be pained to see the path by which these trade packages have come to the floor.

From beginning to end, Members of this body have been shut out, shut out from reading the text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership that has now been fast-tracked, and we are not being able to discuss it with our constituents.

It is not just the American Representatives that have been silenced, either. The trade deal is upending legislative bodies across the world, and particularly in another great democracy involved in this agreement—Australia. The people's representatives in Australia could not look at this bill, even though they had great concern that PhRMA was going to do great harm to their own health system in Australia as well as in New Zealand. They couldn't even go to see about that unless they signed a paper that they would not discuss it for 4 years. So, two of the great democracies on the planet working on this trade bill, the United States and Australia, basically shut out the people's representatives from knowing what it is that we are even talking about today.

Mr. Speaker, I insert for the RECORD the text of an article about the Australians, an article from The Guardian from June 11, titled, ''Leaked Trade Deal Terms Prompt Fears for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.''

[From the Guardian, June 11, 2015]

(Gabrielle Chan)

The leak of new information on the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) shows the mega-trade deal could provide more ways for multinational corporations to influence Australia's control of its pharmaceutical regulations.

Revealed via Wikileaks, the annexe on ''transparency and procedural fairness for pharmaceutical products and medical devices'' uncovered the draft agreements regarding medicines between the 12 TPPA member countries.

The leak comes as US Republican leaders announced a vote on Friday that may provide Barack Obama a fast-track authority to complete the agreement with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. The countries represent 40% of the world's economy.

The leaked text, dated December 2014, laid out the draft rules for member countries regarding medicines under national health care programs, in Australia's case, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The TPP has yet to be signed off.

The Abbott government has argued the trade deal will provide access for Australian products to other markets. But it requires Australia to trade off regulations that stop access by other countries and particularly multinational companies to the Australian market.

Critics have suggested the deal, which is likely to include Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses, will allow big corporations to sue Australian governments. Philip Morris International is currently challenging the former Labor government's tobacco plain packaging laws under a Hong Kong trade treaty ISDS.

Trade experts leaped on the rare information release regarding the secret but wide-ranging trade deal. Deborah Gleeson, a lecturer at the school of psychology and public health at La Trobe University, said the inclusion of an annexe on health ''serves no useful public interest purpose''.

''It sets a terrible precedent for using regional trade deals to tamper with other countries' health systems and could circumscribe the options available to developing countries seeking to introduce pharmaceutical coverage programs in future,'' Gleeson said.

Jane Kelsey of the faculty of law of the University of Auckland described the annexe as one of the most controversial parts of the TPP in her analysis. She said the US pharmaceutical industry was using the trade agreement to target New Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency (Pharmac), equivalent to the PBS.

''This 'transparency' annexe seeks to erode the processes and decisions of agencies that decide which medicines and medical devices to subsidise the public money and by how much,'' Kelsey said.

''This leaked text shows the TPP will severely erode Pharmac's ability to continue to deliver affordable medicines and medical devices as it has for the past two decades.

''That will mean fewer medicines are subsidised, or people will pay more as co-payments or more of the health budget will go to pay for medicines instead of other activities or the health budget will have to expand beyond the cap.

''Whatever the outcome, the big global pharmaceutical companies will win and the poorest and most vulnerable New Zealanders will lose.''

AMA president Brian Owler said while doctors were very concerned at the possible effects on Australia's healthcare systems, they were constantly dismissed by the trade minister Andrew Robb.

''When we have raised concerns about the effects on health, the only response is 'we are not going to undermine the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme','' said Owler.

''We are worried about the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism and there are issues in terms of patents that would affect pharmaceutical prices.

''The problem is our concerns have been dismissed by the trade minister but we do not know what is in the text.''

However, Robb said on Thursday that the government would not accept anything that would adversely affect the PBS, the health system more generally, or increase the price of medicines for Australians.

''It's perhaps time to look at the enormous benefits that will flow from a more seamless trade and investment environment across 12 countries representing 40 percent of global GDP,'' Robb said.

''New levels of market access and common sets of trading rules will help support growth, create new jobs and result in higher living standards.''

Parliamentarians were offered the chance to see the TPP draft by Robb if they agreed to a four year non-disclosure agreement.

A cross-party parliamentary working group has formed, including Greens senator Peter Whish-Wilson, Labor MP Melissa Parke and independent senator Nick Xenophon.

Whish-Wilson, who has not seen the draft as he refused to agree to the terms of the agreement, said the latest leak suggested the Australian PBS could be undermined.

''These negotiations are happening behind closed doors, without the scrutiny of the parliament,'' he said.

''At the very least, the Australian people deserve to be reassured that the government won't allow any deal which drives up the public health costs for Australian taxpayers such as further subsidising important new medicines including biologics.''

During the most recent senate estimates in the past fortnight, Whish-Wilson questioned officials from the department of foreign affairs and trade about the strategic importance of the TPP to the United States.

The secretary of Dfat, Peter Varghese, said the whole purpose was to indicate a ''ramped up US presence in Asia''.

''The conclusion of the TPP is important to the United States in terms of its rebalance, because it is an important step in relation to the economic engagement of the United States with the region, and the whole purpose of the re-balance was to indicate a ramped up US presence in Asia, and a recognition of the importance of Asia in broader US geostrategic thinking,'' Varghese said.

''We in Australia have never seen the TPP as an instrument for locking anybody out—in fact, quite the contrary.''

The trade minister's office was contacted for comment.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. So the two great democracies are now being cut out, and

the 750,000 people that I represent in western New York have been silenced because I don't go see a trade bill if I can't discuss it with them.

There has been no regular order and absolutely no Member input, with the exception of the Committee on Ways and Means. Now, the Senate had plenty of opportunity for amendments, and they were plentiful. Many of them were accepted. They also had robust debate, but not the House of Representatives. The opportunity in the Committee on Ways and Means to offer amendments did not result in acceptance of any Democratic amendments.

Over the last 3 weeks, the Democrats and Republicans, alike, came to the Committee on Rules with ideas to try to make the trade package better. They ranged from currency manipulation to labor standards to environmental fixes to the investor-state dispute settlement, but one by one they were shut out.

Perhaps one of the most critical is the investor-state dispute settlement, where three lawyers will be allowed to adjudicate all cases brought against any of the participating countries, in many cases resulting against change in their laws. I should note that the House of Representatives, in fear of all this, has already voted to do away with country of origin labeling.

What is more, on the third rule that we have had in so many weeks on trade, we are being asked to vote on two separate bills packaged into one vote. On one hand, we have Trade Adjustment Assistance, or TAA; on the other hand, we have the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, which most of us have supported. The other part of this is a bill that was trounced in the House of Representatives. We find ourselves in the position of supporting the African Growth and Opportunity Act at the same time of a vote that most of us have voted against, the TAA.

Linking these two bills together is untenable and goes again the mores of the Chamber. And as we see, when the process is strained, the bills suffer, but most of all, the people we represent suffer.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman brings up a lot of good issues. We have been on the floor talking about this bill for a long, long time: hours of debate up in the Committee on Rules; hours of debate not only in the Committee on Ways and Means, but also watching the United States Senate for weeks work through this issue.

I think the gentlewoman knows and understands that any final trade deal will result in our ability to see in writing—and the public—this document; and the gentlewoman knows and understands it is simply not true if we try and say that we can't see what is in the bill, we don't know what is in the bill. Plenty of time, plenty of time to do that. It is just not available yet.

So why would you put out something that has not yet been negotiated? I wouldn't do that. And whether the administration has handled this entire process well or not may be up for speculation, but I find it hard to criticize. Any Member of Congress was given an opportunity to come and read what exists today. This is not the final deal. Members of Congress have not seen the final deal because it has not been negotiated. When it is negotiated, when whoever the President is brings a trade deal back to the United States, to the United States Congress, we will be able to see it.

Secondly, very specifically, Chairman PAUL RYAN of the Committee on Ways and Means put in the law that any Member of Congress may take part in any of the trade talks as they evolve around the country. Members of Congress are allowed to do this, and I think that it is a real advantage to have more authority for Members of Congress of rules and regulations, putting us into the process to where we are a part of understanding not only what we would be voting on, but the importance of us being involved throughout the process.

Lastly, the gentlewoman is right. I do understand that the rules and regulations that have been added, not every Member of this House would like them, but I felt like they were important. I would like to just go through some of those very quickly.

One of them is that we are not going to allow any part of a trade deal to end up as an immigration deal. That is the wrong thing. This should be about trade, not about immigration.

Secondly, it shouldn't be about climate change, and we specifically said it cannot be about climate change.

Lastly, we said that for our own authority—and I think the constitutional bounds are there for us to say that—if there are any changes in this document, those changes have to come through Congress for us to approve them.

□ 0930

Of course, not every colleague that we have in the House would be for those rules, but I believe that they are in the best interest of this body.

I believe they are in the best interest of making sure that the way the world sees us is that we work together from a democracy, a republic perspective; that we work back through the things that we agree to in law, in bilateral deals, would have to involve the United States Congress. It would have to involved the United States Senate and the President and us working together.

By the authority granted within this TPA, that is exactly what we will do. I think it is well balanced. I think it is really a work of art that Chairman RYAN has crafted, along with our colleagues in the Senate, and I am proud of that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

What the gentleman said sounds wonderful, and so we are all going to have an opportunity to do it, but we have not been in on the negotiation. All we know about it is what has come through WikiLeaks, that it is being negotiated mainly by financial services and pharmaceutical companies.

Once we pass fast trade and it has passed both Houses, once that is done, the administration can do the trade bill itself in perfect secrecy, and we will not know it until it comes to the House. At that point, all we can do is vote up or down. It is my sincere hope that we vote it down.

I am now pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I want to begin this discussion by saying I have the utmost respect for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). I have worked with him on other issues where we have agreed. That is not the case today.

I also know that there will be Members of the majority and Members of the minority that have a different opinion than I do on this matter, and it does not mean I have less respect for them; it just means we have a difference of agreement on this one bill.

Now, when I first met my wife, I was an ironworker. I worked as an ironworker for 20 years. Then I went to law school and became an attorney. Then I ran for office and became a politician. My wife says it has been one disappointment after another.

When I was an ironworker, I had an opportunity to work at the General Motors facility, the auto plant in Framingham, Massachusetts. That was just before they made a decision to close that plant, close a couple in Michigan, and move them over the border to Mexico. I have seen the effect that that has had on local communities where that has happened.

I oppose this bill because I want a stronger America. That is why I oppose this bill. Our trade agreements negotiated under fast track have had a continual pattern of exporting American jobs overseas. That is just the fact of the matter.

Now, you might be surprised that a former union president, a Democrat, an ironworker would oppose a bill. The object of this bill is to provide public assistance to workers after we send their jobs overseas. That is the object of this bill. When their jobs are exported, we will give them public assistance and some training for a new job.

I oppose this bill; some people find that surprising, but I can only draw on my own experience. I always felt that I would rather have my Representative fighting for my job than coming up with a public assistance program to support me after I lost my job.

That is why I am here on the floor today. I think American workers want

their Representative in the fight. They want them in the fight to protect their jobs, not to give them public assistance after they ship their jobs overseas. That is as simple as I can describe.

I think I understand the American people. I think I understand the American worker. I have been there, and this does not do the job.

If you want to read this bill, you have to go to a secret location here on the Capitol Grounds. I had to give up my cell phone and my iPad. I had to give them my pen. I was not allowed to bring any paper. I can't take notes. They bring in a big box with the bill, and they sat it down in front of me, and they let me read it. They do not allow me to talk to the people who sent me here about what is in that bill.

That is not right. That is undemocratic. There is a reason they don't let me talk about that bill to the people I represent and everybody else in this Chamber—because they would not like it. They would tell you: Do not pass this bill; it is going to cost our jobs and our kids' jobs.

The people who are drafting this bill, though, as the gentlewoman from New York spoke, are industries like the chemical industry, the pharmaceutical industry. They are all drafting sections of this bill; yet the people who represent American workers are kept out of the process.

Later on, we will be able to vote up or down, but we cannot fix this bill. Unlike every other bill that comes to this floor that we are allowed to amend, we cannot fix this bill. We have to vote it up or down, and that is not right. That is not right. If we see a problem, we should be able to fix it.

I was listening to a guy the other day talk about the fact that we shouldn't really worry about not having manufacturing jobs in America anymore, that we have a service economy. He described it as a Starbucks economy.

Now, I love Starbucks as much as the next guy; I like my grande latte, but the Starbucks economy does not work unless you have someone who can walk into that store and pay $4 for a cup of coffee. This is not good for America.

I was watching that Roosevelt show last night on PBS, and they talked about, after the Second World War, the world called America ''the arsenal of democracy'' because our industrial might, our manufacturing capacity, allowed us to marshal resources and save the world.

We have continually exported millions and millions and millions of American manufacturing jobs in the industrial capacity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. LYNCH. I am just getting wound up.

They referred to America after the Second World War as the arsenal of democracy because we did save the world. Today, when the world looks at us after we have exported millions of manufacturing jobs and industrial capacity overseas, I think they look at America and say: You know, in America, they can make us a good cup of coffee if you can pay $4 a cup.

This is not the direction we should be sending America. I have the utmost respect for my friends on the other side of aisle. Democrats on my side of the aisle are going to support this. We have to get America's Representatives, Members of Congress, back in this fight. We have abnegated our responsibility.

We negotiate a lot of complicated bills on this floor and over in the Senate, nuclear regulatory issues, bankruptcy—very complicated issues—war and peace; yet we can't negotiate this trade deal. We have got to leave it up to multinational corporations. That is flat wrong. America wants their Representatives back in the fight on this issue.

Let's vote this bill down; let's get rid of TPA and let the American workers have a voice on the floor of this House of Representatives on this bill.

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

The gentleman, my friend from Massachusetts, is a great man and a very dear friend, but I would respond and say to the gentleman that you are going to have an opportunity, and I can't wait to get you invited to every single round of these and have you find time to go do exactly what you think Members of Congress ought to be doing because, in fact, that is the way the TPA is written.

Now, we haven't agreed to it yet because it has not been signed by—well, that has—but this whole process. As soon as that takes place, the gentleman will have all the opportunity he wants to go and take part in every round of the discussions.

I don't believe that is what we were elected for. I don't believe we were elected to go and have to do all the work that is described that the gentleman said to get back into the fight, to go offer the trade deals, to go do the negotiating.

He will be given that chance. He will be given that chance every single day. As soon as it is signed by the President, he can go at it. He can maybe even just tell the President he wants to do this for a full-time job; I don't know, but he will have that opportunity.

Every Member of this body will have that same chance. He and every Member will have a chance to go and negotiate, be in the room, be a part of the discussion, and make sure all these big, multilateral corporations that he talks about that will be in the room—which they won't be because that would not be the right thing. There would be ethics violations. I am sure the White House, the executive branch, can notify him of that, but he will be allowed as a Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the things that are being talked about most as negative points about this bill, there is already an answer to it. That is what Republicans did.

This is a Republican bill. This is about the authority of the House of Representatives, the United States Congress, to make sure we are involved. That has never been allowed before.

Fast track is what we used to have. That is what we did have. We now have a bill before us today which will help us complete the entire process, to make sure Members of Congress are involved, not just the United States negotiator; but all the world will know the piece parts about how we are going to negotiate the trade deal. If it doesn't come back that way, we will vote it down.

Do we need to second-guess them now today? I don't think so, but if any Member wants to be involved in this, they can just get on their plane and go wherever they want and get it done. By law, they will be allowed that opportunity.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I have great admiration for Mr. SESSIONS. We truly are good friends, and I know that he is absolutely sincere when he says that every Member of Congress is going to have input now into this bill that has not even begun.

If there is no bill, then why is everybody talking about going to read something? For goodness sake, when you passed the TPA, we have passed fast track. You can't say we are not operating under fast track.

I hear that all the time, and it really grates on me because fast track is what was passed here and in the Senate that gives to the administration the ability to negotiate that.

It will come in here, and we may be reading all of it—if we have the ability to do that—before we vote; I am not even clear about that. But I do know that they negotiate it; it is brought over here, and we get to vote ''yes'' or ''no.'' We don't amend it. There will be nothing that we can say about it, and we are stuck with it.

Not only do we have fast track, but it is not just until the expiration of President Obama's term; it is for years beyond, so a future President can do whatever they please because the Congress gave that authority to the executive department. Why? I don't know.

It doesn't just apply to this one trade bill. I hope everybody understands that. When they passed TPA here the other day, they were doing it for years to come.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I will try not to repeat the arguments that the gentlewoman has put forward, but I do have to say that there is about 8 pounds of bill over there at a secure location, as I spoke of before,

that I can't talk about it in public because I am precluded from doing that. I would violate the rules of the House and the classified status that has been accorded that material, so I can't really talk about it.

I can say that it is very complicated. Like I say, there is probably, I am guessing, about 8 pounds of document there that you have to read. It is largely aspirational. In other words, I will paraphrase without disclosing any classified information. It largely says the parties will aspire or engage to do blah, blah, blah. It is largely unenforceable.

Here is another part of the problem. We are negotiating the biggest multinational trade agreement in the history of the United States. You have got some countries that I think are reliable partners and that we have a history with.

Canada, even before free trade agreements, we had trade agreements with Canada. They have the rule of law there. It is not a race to the bottom with Canada or with Australia or with New Zealand.

□ 0945

I think we have rule of law established in those countries. But we also, in the same agreement, are negotiating with Vietnam.

I went to Vietnam not long ago, and when we talked issues, I sat down across the table from a bunch of Communist generals. They run the country. They have problems with prison labor. They have problems with child labor. They have serious problems with environmental standards in that country.

Malaysia, do you know what the minimum wage in Malaysia is? Zero. They do that to try to attract companies.

The situation in Chile and Peru, we have organizers that have tried to work on behalf of workers who have been killed in those countries. There is no rule of law established in those countries where we have had success in enforcing our agreements. That has been a major problem.

So we are going to ask the American worker to compete with workers in Vietnam, who get, I think it is 90 cents an hour, 97 cents an hour—I don't want to sell them short—97 cents an hour in a country that has had a history of major problems, as I have spoken about. Malaysia, the same thing.

We can't enforce our agreements. And on the issue of who has drafted this bill, it is my understanding that the chemical industry provisions in that TPP were drafted by the chemical industry. They like it. They got exactly what they wanted. The same thing with these other industries.

And again, why is it a national secret that I can't talk about a bill that is going to affect every American citizen today? And not only that, it is going to affect their sons and daughters.

There is a reason that our kids coming out of college can't get jobs. We have got to wake up.

I told this story before. I went to Korea recently, with JPAC. It was about the Korean war and recovering our sons and daughters who fought in that country and are still there. But while I was there, I looked for American cars because we had passed a free trade agreement with Korea. We were there for days. I had two young Navy lieutenants with me. I said, Let's all look for American cars.

We saw two American cars in the time we were there in Korea. It is a big industrial country. They have got plenty of traffic. We saw hundreds of thousands of cars. I saw two American cars: the one I was driving in from the Embassy, and the one that the Navy lieutenants were driving in behind me. They have shut us out.

You go to Japan, it is pretty much the same story. I said before, you need to hire a detective to find an American car in Japan.

So we have had very little success in enforcing our trade agreements overseas. We have got a lousy deal.

So all I am asking is, look, I believe in—and you know what? I have to say, the EU did it right. The EU, when they negotiated with South Korea, they said: If you are going to sell cars into the EU from Korea, we want 30 percent of the components in that car to be made in the EU. And they created a lot of work for their auto parts industry.

Think about it. We could do that. Congress could do that. We could maintain that, if they are going to sell a foreign car here, we want 40 percent or 50 percent of the components to be manufactured here in the United States. We would create millions of jobs in the United States. There is nothing wrong with that. It is a good thing. We would restore industrial and manufacturing capacity in the United States if Congress got back in the game.

I am not against free trade. I think free trade works when it is balanced. I want somebody in there fighting for the American worker. We don't have that now. We don't have that now. Congress has abdicated its responsibility by agreeing to buy a pig in a poke because, when they bring that bill back on the floor here, we are going to have to vote up or down.

You won't have the ability to change the bill like you do on every other bill that is brought on the floor of Congress. You will not have that ability. Congress will have abdicated its responsibility to represent the people that sent them here.

Free trade can work. Let's have a fair deal for the American worker. That is all I am asking for.

If there were a fair deal for the American worker that I could read and talk to my constituents about—you know, I have got 727,514 bosses back in Massachusetts, and they sent me here to do my job, and I am trying to do that on their behalf. I think that every other Member of Congress is trying to do their job as well. We can't do that if TPA goes through. We need to give the American worker a voice, and we can do that today.

Let's vote this stuff down. Let's talk to the President. He is a good man, wants to create American jobs. Let's have an open debate. It should not be a secret. It should not be a national secret about these agreements we are having with multinational corporations. We should not be afraid that the American people might find out what is going on here.

We should be proud of what we are doing here. We should want it plastered all over the front pages of the newspapers in this country. We should be proud of our work here.

I can't be proud of what is going on right now, and so I urge my colleagues to vote against it. Vote this down. Let's change this system to a transparent system that the American people can be assured that their Representatives in Congress are doing the right thing.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I really, once again, appreciate the gentleman for coming to the floor and speaking directly with you and all of his colleagues about the importance of this bill and, really, the problems he has with it.

But I would also like to let you know, Mr. Speaker, that the number one selling car in Korea is an American-made car. We signed a trade agreement in 2011 with Korea. The Toyota Camry from Georgetown, Kentucky, the Toyota made in Georgetown, Kentucky, is the number one selling vehicle in Korea starting last year.

Now, there may not be a lot of them necessarily where the gentleman visited in Korea, but that is a fact; and the gentleman from Georgetown, Kentucky, ANDY BARR, who is a Member of this Congress, has talked about this for a long, long time.

The trade agreements, when the United States engages with them, we end up with surpluses, and it is better for the American worker. The trade agreement jobs pay 30 percent more than the nontrade-associated jobs in this country; and by virtue of what we are doing we are trying to get a trade deal now where Japan would be involved because we do want Japan to open up their marketplaces. But where we have these agreements, that is what happens. The American worker wins.

So TPA is already the law of the land. The question we have today is whether we are going to include in that package the last parts of this, which would be TAA, which do give, if there is a difference as a result of the trade deals where an industry, where a town, where a group of people were ''harmed,'' then the law would be there for retraining.

I think that is the right vote. That is why Speaker BOEHNER is bringing this back, even though, by and large, this concept was turned down by the Democratic Party, from the very top of their organization to the bottom. That is why Speaker BOEHNER understood the right and fair thing to do.

Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL said the right thing to do is to bring it back; let's see if we can repackage it. Let's see if we can take a little bit of time, measure three times, saw again, see if we can get it right. That is what we are trying to do.

Trade Promotion Authority that the gentleman has been speaking of is already the law of the land. The question is will this last piece be a part of it.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, what we have heard this morning must certainly cause great confusion in the minds of America. Let me restate what has happened here.

The Congress has passed fast-track authority, TPA, for 6 years. It goes beyond this President's term and covers 4 years of another. Why that happened, I am not really clear, but it certainly is something we have given away our right to negotiate trade agreements, which, by the way, the Constitution gives us the ability to do.

Second, there will be no input. The Congress of the United States will not be writing that trade bill. That is purely in the hands of the Trade Representative and the Executive Department of the United States.

Our next role, and the only one we have, is to vote up or down on whatever they present us. What a sad day it is.

And I want to agree with Mr. LYNCH. The very fact of passing this bill is an admission and knowing that we are going to lose jobs.

My part of the district in western New York is just now starting to regain its footing after NAFTA. You have heard me say it a million times. Eastman Kodak, one of the iconic companies in the country—in the world, actually—went from 62,000 employees down to foreign bankruptcy. What we have got, also NAFTA has put us, the losses there, as the fifth city that is under the poverty line in the United States.

For heaven's sake, it breaks my heart to think that my constituents are going to have to be facing this again, because people who have voted for all this don't seem to understand what it is that they have done.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I appreciate my colleagues, the gentleman from Massachusetts, the gentlewoman from New York, for their engagement today.

Mr. Speaker, confirmed again, the number one car, the car of the year in Korea in 2013: Toyota Camry, made in Georgetown, Kentucky. I have had 10 people text me trying to give me more information about what a great opportunity this is for American workers.

Mr. Speaker, that is what this bill is about. It is about the jobs opportunity and a fair proposal, not just by the administration, not just by the House and the Senate but, really, a Republican bill for jobs. This is a jobs bill, a jobs bill that will allow the American worker to have new boundaries, new opportunities to go out in.

And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, I don't travel very much. But I will tell you that I know from the stories that come back, people want American-made products. They want American-made, everything from jeans all the way to high-tech products. They want American products because of the reliability of the American workers, because of the stability of America, and we have got a great opportunity with this final piece, part of this trade agreement to move it forward.

I think 5 years from now we are going to look back and say, Wow, what did we do great? And you can mark it just like they do this year, 2 years ago, looking back to the Toyota Camry, number one in the Korean market.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for, I think, just an up-or-down vote—it is really simple—to Senate amendment H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act. By passing this rule today, we can move on. The House will have an opportunity to consider the bill, and it will head to the President's desk, this package of bills to the President.

I urge adoption of the rule and look forward to the debate that will follow on the real substance of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1000

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have a privileged resolution at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. _____

Whereas on December 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first State to secede from the Union;

Whereas on January 9, 1861, Mississippi seceded from the Union, stating in its ''Declaration of Immediate Causes'' that ''[o]ur position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery – the greatest material interest of the world.'';

Whereas on February 9, 1861, the Confederate States of America was formed with a group of 11 States as a purported sovereign nation and with Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as its president;

Whereas on March 11, 1861, the Confederate States of America adopted its own constitution;

Whereas on April 12, 1861, the Confederate States of America fired shots upon Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, effectively beginning the Civil War;

Whereas the United States did not recognize the Confederate States of America as a sovereign nation, but rather as a rebel insurrection, and took to military battle to bring the rogue states back into the Union;

Whereas on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia, effectively, ending the Civil War and preserving the Union;

Whereas during the Civil War, the Confederate States of America used the Navy Jack, Battle Flag, and other imagery as a symbols of the Confederate armed forces;

Whereas since the end of the Civil War, the Navy Jack, Confederate battle flag, and other imagery of the Confederacy have been appropriated by groups as a symbols of hate, terror, intolerance, and as supportive of the institution of slavery;

Whereas groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups utilize Confederate imagery to frighten, terrorize, and cause harm to groups of people toward whom they have hateful intent, including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Jewish Americans;

Whereas many State and Federal political leaders, including United States Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, along with Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn and other State leaders, have spoken out and advocated for the removal of the imagery of the Confederacy on Mississippi's state flag;

Whereas many Members of Congress, including Speaker John Boehner, support the removal of the Confederate flag from the grounds of South Carolina's capitol;

Whereas Speaker John Boehner released a statement on the issue saying, ''I commend Governor Nikki Haley and other South Carolina leaders in their effort to remove the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds. In his second inaugural address 150 years ago, and a month before his assassination, President Abraham Lincoln ended his speech with these powerful words, which are as meaningful today as when they were spoken on the East Front of the Capitol on March 4, 1865: 'With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.' '';

Whereas the House of Representatives has several State flags with imagery of the Confederacy throughout its main structures and House office buildings;

Whereas it is an uncontroverted fact that symbols of the Confederacy offend and insult many members of the general public who use the hallways of Congress each day;

Whereas Congress has never permanently recognized in its hallways the symbols of sovereign nations with whom it has gone to war or rogue entities such as the Confederate States of America;

Whereas continuing to display a symbol of hatred, oppression, and insurrection that nearly tore our Union apart and that is known to offend many groups throughout the country would irreparably damage the reputation of this august institution and offend the very dignity of the House of Representatives; and

Whereas this impairment of the dignity of the House and its Members constitutes a violation under rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall remove any State flag containing any portion of the Confederate battle flag, other than a flag displayed by the office of a Member of the House, from any area within the House wing of the Capitol or any House office building, and shall donate any such flag to the Library of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of privilege.

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. McCarthy moves that the resolution be referred to the Committee on House Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing this resolution to the attention of the House.

As I have said many times before, I am a big believer in the committee process to discuss all issues that come before the floor, especially one of this importance. I think this resolution should be referred to the Committee on House Administration to give other Members an opportunity to weigh in.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, to someone who has lived his entire life in the State of Mississippi and has had to endure a symbol that represented bigotry, hatred, and everything this country is not, I am convinced that an effort to remove this flag from the hallowed Halls of the House of Representatives is the right thing to do.

We all know the history of the South. We know the secessionists' motivations behind the Civil War, and my ancestors were those individuals who were held in bondage against their will.

We are a Nation of laws. We should not identify with symbols of hatred and bigotry. That flag, those symbols should be put in a museum. They should not be flown under any circumstance where there is freedom and dignity in this great institution of ours.

I know it is a hard choice for Members to do, but I saw what happened in Charleston, South Carolina, last Wednesday. The whole world saw it, and they did not like it. This is one step toward getting us healed as a Nation.

I take it personally. I have had churches burned in my district. I have had men and women killed for trying to do the right thing; yet, when I see people trying to defend that way of life which that flag represents, this is not who we are as an institution.

Because of that, I offer the privileged resolution. I understand where we are with it, but I have issues with it.

I appreciate the gentleman yielding the 2 minutes.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the referral of this resolution to committee.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), the distinguished chair of the Committee on House Administration.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the majority leader for yielding the time.

I would just say, Mr. Speaker, to my colleague from Mississippi, I certainly was moved personally just listening to him speak now; and I listened to him last night when he offered his privileged motion.

I would say that the Committee on House Administration is looking forward to hearing more from Representative THOMPSON, as well as all of the congressional delegation from the great State of Mississippi, on this resolution. As well, our committee, of course, would want to have an opportunity to hear from all of the elected representatives at the State level of the great State of Mississippi.

We want to say that we sincerely appreciate Representative THOMPSON for offering his privileged resolution and to assure the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. Speaker, that our committee will give this measure every serious consideration and every thoughtful consideration.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion to refer.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to refer.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to refer will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 338 and the motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 1615.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 184, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 385]

YEAS—240

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—184

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard

Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Hurt (VA)
Kelly (MS)
Napolitano
Payne
Peters
Sanford
Young (AK)

□ 1038

Mses. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and DELBENE, Messrs. HASTINGS, CLAWSON of Florida, SERRANO, and JOHNSON of Georgia changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. FLORES and BURGESS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to refer was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 385 on H. Res. 341. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Stated against:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting with constituents and missed recorded vote No. 385. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 385, On the Motion to Refer the Thompson (MS) Resolution to the Committee on House Administration, I would have voted "no."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25th, 2015, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 385. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on the Motion to Refer the Thompson (MS) Resolution to the Committee on House Administration.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1295, TRADE PREFERENCES EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 338) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1295) to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 251, nays 176, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 386]

YEAS—251

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—176

Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gohmert
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Clyburn
Kelly (MS)
Napolitano
Payne
Sanford
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1046

Mr. SIRES and Ms. JACKSON LEE changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. PALAZZO changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25th, 2015, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 386. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 338, Providing for consideration of a Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015.

HONORING TIM HARROUN

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

Mr. BOEHNER. My colleagues, the people's House is only as good as its people, and I would like to take a moment to recognize a very well-respected member of our staff.

Tim Harroun, the manager of the Republican cloakroom, is retiring after 41 years of service.

It is actually more than that when you factor in that Tim started here as a page on September 5, 1972, under Republican leader Gerald R. Ford; but his first full-time job was in the post office. Then he moved to the cloakroom, where he has been a steady presence ever since.

Now, you all know Tim is a good guy and, frankly, quite a character, and he wears the worst ties of anybody here.

But, Tim, God has blessed you with great success because you are the kind of guy who works hard and gives back. So, on behalf of the whole House, I want to thank you for your long and distinguished service, and I wish you and your wife all the best.

HONORING TIM HARROUN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as someone who has not served here as long as Tim—but for a pretty long time—I have gotten to know him very well when I have wandered across that side of the aisle. He always receives me with a very gracious attitude and is always very, very helpful. He has been a wonderful fellow worker on the floor of this House with all of us on this side of the aisle as well.

I certainly join our Speaker in thanking him for the service that he has given to this House and to this country, and I wish him the very best in the future.

DHS FOIA EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1615) to direct the Chief FOIA Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain improvements in the implementation of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 387]

YEAS—423

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—10

Chu, Judy
Clyburn
Grijalva
Kelly (MS)
Napolitano
Payne
Pelosi
Sanford
Smith (WA)
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1057

Mr. HASTINGS changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25th, 2015, I was absent during roll-call vote No. 387. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1615, the DHS FOIA Efficiency Act, as amended.

TRADE PREFERENCES EXTENSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 338, I call up the bill (H.R. 1295) to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Findings.
Sec. 103. Extension of African Growth and Opportunity Act.
Sec. 104. Modifications of rules of origin for duty-free treatment for articles of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries under Generalized System of Preferences.
Sec. 105. Monitoring and review of eligibility under Generalized System of Preferences.
Sec. 106. Promotion of the role of women in social and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.
Sec. 107. Biennial AGOA utilization strategies.
Sec. 108. Deepening and expanding trade and investment ties between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States.
Sec. 109. Agricultural technical assistance for sub-Saharan Africa.
Sec. 110. Reports.
Sec. 111. Technical amendments.
Sec. 112. Definitions.

TITLE II—EXTENSION OF GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

Sec. 201. Extension of Generalized System of Preferences.
Sec. 202. Authority to designate certain cotton articles as eligible articles only for least-developed beneficiary developing countries under Generalized System of Preferences.
Sec. 203. Application of competitive need limitation and waiver under Generalized System of Preferences with respect to articles of beneficiary developing countries exported to the United States during calendar year 2014.
Sec. 204. Eligibility of certain luggage and travel articles for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences.

TITLE III—EXTENSION OF PREFERENTIAL DUTY TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR HAITI

Sec. 301. Extension of preferential duty treatment program for Haiti.

TITLE IV—EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Application of provisions relating to trade adjustment assistance.
Sec. 403. Extension of trade adjustment assistance program.
Sec. 404. Performance measurement and reporting.
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Sec. 806. Penalty for failure to file correct information returns and provide payee statements.
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Sec. 808. Coverage and payment for renal dialysis services for individuals with acute kidney injury.

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since its enactment, the African Growth and Opportunity Act has been the centerpiece of trade relations between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa and has enhanced trade, investment, job creation, and democratic institutions throughout Africa.

(2) Trade and investment, as facilitated by the African Growth and Opportunity Act, promote economic growth, development, poverty reduction, democracy, the rule of law, and stability in sub-Saharan Africa.

(3) Trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa has more than tripled since the enactment of the African Growth and Opportunity Act in 2000, and United States direct investment in sub-Saharan Africa has grown almost sixfold.

(4) It is in the interest of the United States to engage and compete in emerging markets in sub-Saharan African countries, to boost trade and investment between the United States and sub-Saharan African countries, and to renew and strengthen the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

(5) The long-term economic security of the United States is enhanced by strong economic and political ties with the fastest-growing economies in the world, many of which are in sub-Saharan Africa.

(6) It is a goal of the United States to further integrate sub-Saharan African countries into the global economy, stimulate economic development in Africa, and diversify sources of growth in sub-Saharan Africa.

(7) To that end, implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization would strengthen regional integration efforts in sub-Saharan Africa and contribute to economic growth in the region.

(8) The elimination of barriers to trade and investment in sub-Saharan Africa, including high tariffs, forced localization requirements, restrictions on investment, and customs barriers, will create opportunities for workers, businesses, farmers, and ranchers in the United States and sub-Saharan African countries.

(9) The elimination of such barriers will improve utilization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and strengthen regional and global integration, accelerate economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, and enhance the trade relationship between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 506B of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466b) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2015'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

(b) AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 112(g) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(g)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2015'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

(2) EXTENSION OF REGIONAL APPAREL ARTICLE PROGRAM.—Section 112(b)(3)(A) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''11 succeeding'' and inserting ''21 succeeding''; and

(B) in clause (ii)(II), by striking ''September 30, 2015'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

(3) EXTENSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY FABRIC PROGRAM.—Section 112(c)(1) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(c)(1)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''SEPTEMBER 30, 2015'' and inserting ''SEPTEMBER 30, 2025'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''September 30, 2015'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''September 30, 2015'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

SEC. 104. MODIFICATIONS OF RULES OF ORIGIN FOR DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR ARTICLES OF BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES UNDER GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 506A(b)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) the direct costs of processing operations performed in one or more such beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries shall be applied in determining such percentage.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO ARTICLES RECEIVING DUTY-FREE TREATMENT UNDER TITLE V OF TRADE ACT OF 1974.—Section 506A(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) RULES OF ORIGIN UNDER THIS TITLE.—The exceptions set forth in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2) shall also apply to any article described in section 503(a)(1) that is the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of any determination to provide duty-free treatment with respect to such article.''.

(c) MODIFICATIONS TO THE HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE.—The President may proclaim such modifications as may be necessary to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) to add the special tariff treatment symbol ''D'' in the ''Special'' subcolumn of the HTS for each article classified under a heading or subheading with the special tariff treatment symbol ''A'' or ''A'' in the ''Special'' subcolumn of the HTS.*

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to any article described in section 503(b)(1)(B) through (G) of the Trade Act of 1974 that is the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country and that is imported into the customs territory of the United States on or after the date that is 30 days after such date of enactment.

SEC. 105. MONITORING AND REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(a) CONTINUING COMPLIANCE.—Section 506A(a)(3) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''If the President'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the President''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) NOTIFICATION.—The President may not terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under subparagraph (A) unless, at least 60 days before the termination of such designation, the President notifies Congress and notifies the country of the President's intention to terminate such designation, together with the considerations entering into the decision to terminate such designation.''.

(b) WITHDRAWAL, SUSPENSION, OR LIMITATION OF PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT.—Section 506A of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) WITHDRAWAL, SUSPENSION, OR LIMITATION OF PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment provided for any article described in subsection (b)(1) of this section or section 112 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act with respect to a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country if the President determines that withdrawing, suspending, or limiting such duty-free treatment would be more effective in promoting compliance by the country with the requirements described in subsection (a)(1) than terminating the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of this section.

''(2) NOTIFICATION.—The President may not withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment under paragraph (1) unless, at least 60 days before such withdrawal, suspension, or limitation, the President notifies Congress and notifies the country of the President's intention to withdraw, suspend, or limit such duty-free treatment, together with the considerations entering into the decision to terminate such designation.''.

(c) REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section 506A of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a), as so amended, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a)(2), the President shall publish annually in the Federal Register a notice of review and request for public comments on whether beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries are meeting the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of this Act.

''(2) PUBLIC HEARING.—The United States Trade Representative shall, not later than 30 days after the date on which the President publishes the notice of review and request for public comments under paragraph (1)—

''(A) hold a public hearing on such review and request for public comments; and

''(B) publish in the Federal Register, before such hearing is held, notice of—

''(i) the time and place of such hearing; and

''(ii) the time and place at which such public comments will be accepted.

''(3) PETITION PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the President shall establish a process to allow any interested person, at any time, to file a petition with the Office of the United States Trade Representative with respect to the compliance of any country listed in section 107 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act with the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of such Act and the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of this Act.

''(B) USE OF PETITIONS.—The President shall take into account all petitions filed pursuant to subparagraph (A) in making determinations of compliance under subsections (a)(3)(A) and (c) and in preparing any reports required by this title as such reports apply with respect to beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

''(4) OUT-OF-CYCLE REVIEWS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may, at any time, initiate an out-of-cycle review of whether a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is making continual progress in meeting the requirements described in paragraph (1). The President shall give due consideration to petitions received under paragraph (3) in determining whether to initiate an out-of-cycle review under this subparagraph.

''(B) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Before initiating an out-of-cycle review under subparagraph (A), the President shall notify and consult with Congress.

''(C) CONSEQUENCES OF REVIEW.—If, pursuant to an out-of-cycle review conducted under subparagraph (A), the President determines that a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country does not meet the requirements set forth in section 104(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703(a)), the President shall, subject to the requirements of subsections (a)(3)(B) and (c)(2), terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country or withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment with respect to articles from the country.

''(D) REPORTS.—After each out-of-cycle review conducted under subparagraph (A) with respect to a country, the President shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report on the review and any determination of the President to terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country or withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment with respect to articles from the country under subparagraph (C).

''(E) INITIATION OF OUT-OF-CYCLE REVIEWS FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—Recognizing that concerns have been raised about the compliance with section 104(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703(a)) of some beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, the President shall initiate an out-of-cycle review under subparagraph (A) with respect to South Africa, the most developed of the beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, and other beneficiary countries as appropriate, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015.''.

SEC. 106. PROMOTION OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Section 103 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3702) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) promoting the role of women in social, political, and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.''.

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section 104(a)(1)(A) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703(a)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting ''for men and women'' after ''rights''.

SEC. 107. BIENNIAL AGOA UTILIZATION STRATEGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries should develop utilization strategies on a biennial basis in order to more effectively and strategically utilize benefits available under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (in this section referred to as ''AGOA utilization strategies'');

(2) United States trade capacity building agencies should work with, and provide appropriate resources to, such sub-Saharan African countries to assist in developing and implementing biennial AGOA utilization strategies; and

(3) as appropriate, and to encourage greater regional integration, the United States Trade Representative should consider requesting the Regional Economic Communities to prepare biennial AGOA utilization strategies.

(b) CONTENTS.—It is further the sense of Congress that biennial AGOA utilization strategies should identify strategic needs and priorities to bolster utilization of benefits available under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. To that end, biennial AGOA utilization strategies should—

(1) review potential exports under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and identify opportunities and obstacles to increased trade and investment and enhanced poverty reduction efforts;

(2) identify obstacles to regional integration that inhibit utilization of benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act;

(3) set out a plan to take advantage of opportunities and address obstacles identified in paragraphs (1) and (2), improve awareness of the African Growth and Opportunity Act as a program that enhances exports to the United States, and utilize United States Agency for International Development regional trade hubs;

(4) set out a strategy to promote small business and entrepreneurship; and

(5) eliminate obstacles to regional trade and promote greater utilization of benefits under the

African Growth and Opportunity Act and establish a plan to promote full regional implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization.

(c) PUBLICATION.—It is further the sense of Congress that—

(1) each beneficiary sub-Saharan African country should publish on an appropriate Internet website of such country public versions of its AGOA utilization strategy; and

(2) the United States Trade Representative should publish on the Internet website of the Office of the United States Trade Representative public versions of all AGOA utilization strategies described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 108. DEEPENING AND EXPANDING TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES BETWEEN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES.

It is the policy of the United States to continue to—

(1) seek to deepen and expand trade and investment ties between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, including through the negotiation of accession by sub-Saharan African countries to the World Trade Organization and the negotiation of trade and investment framework agreements, bilateral investment treaties, and free trade agreements, as such agreements have the potential to catalyze greater trade and investment, facilitate additional investment in sub-Saharan Africa, further poverty reduction efforts, and promote economic growth;

(2) seek to negotiate agreements with individual sub-Saharan African countries as well as with the Regional Economic Communities, as appropriate;

(3) promote full implementation of commitments made under the WTO Agreement (as such term is defined in section 2(9) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(9)) because such actions are likely to improve utilization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and promote trade and investment and because regular review to ensure continued compliance helps to maximize the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act; and

(4) promote the negotiation of trade agreements that cover substantially all trade between parties to such agreements and, if other countries seek to negotiate trade agreements that do not cover substantially all trade, continue to object in all appropriate forums.

SEC. 109. AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

Section 13 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 (19 U.S.C. 3701 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''shall identify not fewer than 10 eligible sub-Saharan African countries as having the greatest'' and inserting '', through the Secretary of Agriculture, shall identify eligible sub-Saharan African countries that have''; and

(B) by striking ''and complying with sanitary and phytosanitary rules of the United States'' and inserting '', complying with sanitary and phytosanitary rules of the United States, and developing food safety standards'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''20'' and inserting ''30''; and

(B) by inserting after ''from those countries'' the following: '', particularly from businesses and sectors that engage women farmers and entrepreneurs,''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) COORDINATION.—The President shall take such measures as are necessary to ensure adequate coordination of similar activities of agencies of the United States Government relating to agricultural technical assistance for sub-Saharan Africa.''.

SEC. 110. REPORTS.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report on the trade and investment relationship between the United States and sub-Saharan African countries and on the implementation of this title and the amendments made by this title.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the status of trade and investment between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa, including information on leading exports to the United States from sub-Saharan African countries.

(B) Any changes in eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries during the period covered by the report.

(C) A detailed analysis of whether each such beneficiary sub-Saharan African country is continuing to meet the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974.

(D) A description of the status of regional integration efforts in sub-Saharan Africa.

(E) A summary of United States trade capacity building efforts.

(F) Any other initiatives related to enhancing the trade and investment relationship between the United States and sub-Saharan African countries.

(b) POTENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) identifies sub-Saharan African countries that have a expressed an interest in entering into a free trade agreement with the United States;

(2) evaluates the viability and progress of such sub-Saharan African countries and other sub-Saharan African countries toward entering into a free trade agreement with the United States; and

(3) describes a plan for negotiating and concluding such agreements, which includes the elements described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 116(b)(2) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

(c) TERMINATION.—The reporting requirements of this section shall cease to have any force or effect after September 30, 2025.

SEC. 111. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703), as amended by section 106, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 112. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term ''beneficiary sub-Saharan African country'' means a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country described in subsection (e) of section 506A of the Trade Act of 1974 (as redesignated by this Act).

(2) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term ''sub-Saharan African country'' has the meaning given the term in section 107 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

TITLE II—EXTENSION OF GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2465) is amended by striking ''July 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2017''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to articles entered on or after the 30th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN LIQUIDATIONS AND RELIQUIDATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other provision of law and subject to subparagraph (B), any entry of a covered article to which duty-free treatment or other preferential treatment under title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.) would have applied if the entry had been made on July 31, 2013, that was made—

(i) after July 31, 2013; and

(ii) before the effective date specified in paragraph (1),

shall be liquidated or reliquidated as though such entry occurred on the effective date specified in paragraph (1).

(B) REQUESTS.—A liquidation or reliquidation may be made under subparagraph (A) with respect to an entry only if a request therefor is filed with U.S. Customs and Border Protection not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains sufficient information to enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

(i) to locate the entry; or

(ii) to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

(C) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or reliquidation of an entry of a covered article under subparagraph (A) shall be paid, without interest, not later than 90 days after the date of the liquidation or reliquidation (as the case may be).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED ARTICLE.—The term ''covered article'' means an article from a country that is a beneficiary developing country under title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.) as of the effective date specified in paragraph (1).

(B) ENTER; ENTRY.—The terms ''enter'' and ''entry'' include a withdrawal from warehouse for consumption.

SEC. 202. AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN COTTON ARTICLES AS ELIGIBLE ARTICLES ONLY FOR LEAST-DEVELOPED BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

Section 503(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) CERTAIN COTTON ARTICLES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), the President may designate as an eligible article or articles under subsection (a)(1)(B) only for countries designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries under section 502(a)(2) cotton articles classifiable under subheading 5201.00.18, 5201.00.28, 5201.00.38, 5202.99.30, or 5203.00.30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.''.

SEC. 203. APPLICATION OF COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATION AND WAIVER UNDER GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES WITH RESPECT TO ARTICLES OF BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2014.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of applying and administering subsections (c)(2) and (d) of section 503 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463) with respect to an article described in subsection (b) of this section, subsections (c)(2) and (d) of section 503 of such Act shall be applied and administered by substituting ''October 1'' for ''July 1'' each place such date appears.

(b) ARTICLE DESCRIBED.—An article described in this subsection is an article of a beneficiary developing country that is designated by the President as an eligible article under subsection (a) of section 503 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463) and with respect to which a determination described in subsection (c)(2)(A) of such section was made with respect to exports (directly or indirectly) to the United States of such eligible article during calendar year 2014 by the beneficiary developing country.

SEC. 204. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN LUGGAGE AND TRAVEL ARTICLES FOR DUTY-FREE TREATMENT UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

Section 503(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (4) and (5)'';

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''Footwear'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (5), footwear''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) CERTAIN LUGGAGE AND TRAVEL ARTICLES.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (E) of paragraph (1), the President may designate the following as eligible articles under subsection (a):

''(A) Articles classifiable under subheading 4202.11.00, 4202.12.40, 4202.21.60, 4202.21.90, 4202.22.15, 4202.22.45, 4202.31.60, 4202.32.40, 4202.32.80, 4202.92.15, 4202.92.20, 4202.92.45, or 4202.99.90 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

''(B) Articles classifiable under statistical reporting number 4202.12.2020, 4202.12.2050, 4202.12.8030, 4202.12.8070, 4202.22.8050, 4202.32.9550, 4202.32.9560, 4202.91.0030, 4202.91.0090, 4202.92.3020, 4202.92.3031, 4202.92.3091, 4202.92.9026, or 4202.92.9060 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, as such statistical reporting numbers are in effect on the date of the enactment of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015.''.

TITLE III—EXTENSION OF PREFERENTIAL DUTY TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR HAITI

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF PREFERENTIAL DUTY TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR HAITI.

Section 213A of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703a) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (B)(v)(I), by amending item (cc) to read as follows:

''(cc) 60 percent or more during the 1-year period beginning on December 20, 2017, and each of the 7 succeeding 1-year periods.''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the table, by striking ''succeeding 11 1-year periods'' and inserting ''16 succeeding 1-year periods''; and

(II) by striking ''December 19, 2018'' and inserting ''December 19, 2025''.

(B) Paragraph (2) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''11 succeeding 1-year periods'' and inserting ''16 succeeding 1-year periods''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking ''11 succeeding 1-year periods'' and inserting ''16 succeeding 1-year periods''.

(2) Subsection (h) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2020'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

TITLE IV—EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015''.

SEC. 402. APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) REPEAL OF SNAPBACK.—Section 233 of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–40; 125 Stat. 416) is repealed.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, the provisions of chapters 2 through 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on December 31, 2013, and as amended by this title, shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to petitions for certification filed under chapter 2, 3, or 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after such date of enactment.

(c) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a provision of chapters 2 through 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, the reference shall be considered to be made to a provision of any such chapter, as in effect on December 31, 2013.

SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF TERMINATION PROVISIONS.—Section 285 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' each place it appears and inserting ''June 30, 2021''.

(b) TRAINING FUNDS.—Section 236(a)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''shall not exceed'' and all that follows and inserting ''shall not exceed $450,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2021.''.

(c) REEMPLOYMENT TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 246(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2318(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''June 30, 2021''.

(d) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—Section 245(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(a)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''June 30, 2021''.

(2) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—Section 255(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2345(a)) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2012 and 2013'' and all that follows through ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2015 through 2021''.

(3) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS.—Section 298(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2401g(a)) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2012 and 2013'' and all that follows through ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2015 through 2021''.

SEC. 404. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING.

(a) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—Section 239(j) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2311(j)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DATA REPORTING'' and inserting ''PERFORMANCE MEASURES'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''a quarterly'' and inserting ''an annual''; and

(ii) by striking ''data'' and inserting ''measures'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''core'' and inserting ''primary''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''that promote efficiency and effectiveness'' after ''assistance program'';

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''CORE INDICATORS DESCRIBED'' and inserting ''INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE''; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) PRIMARY INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE DESCRIBED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The primary indicators of performance referred to in paragraph (1)(A) shall consist of—

''(I) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who are in unsubsidized employment during the second calendar quarter after exit from the program;

''(II) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program and who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth calendar quarter after exit from the program;

''(III) the median earnings of workers described in subclause (I);

''(IV) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who, subject to clause (ii), obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, during participation in the program or within one year after exit from the program; and

''(V) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who, during a year while receiving such benefits, are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential or employment and who are achieving measurable gains in skills toward such a credential or employment.

''(ii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), a worker who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who obtained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted for purposes of that clause only if the worker, in addition to obtaining such a diploma or its recognized equivalent, has obtained or retained employment or is in an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within one year after exit from the program.'';

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''DATA'' and inserting ''MEASURES'';

(B) by striking ''quarterly'' and inserting ''annual''; and

(C) by striking ''data'' and inserting ''measures''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) ACCESSIBILITY OF STATE PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, make available (including by electronic means), in an easily understandable format, the reports of cooperating States or cooperating State agencies required by paragraph (1) and the information contained in those reports.''.

(b) COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF DATA.—Section 249B of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''enrolled in'' and inserting ''who received'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''complete'' and inserting ''exited''; and

(II) by striking ''who were enrolled in'' and inserting '', including who received'';

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''complete'' and inserting ''exited'';

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''complete'' and inserting ''exit''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) The average cost per worker of receiving training approved under section 236.

''(H) The percentage of workers who received training approved under section 236 and obtained unsubsidized employment in a field related to that training.''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking ''quarterly'' each place it appears and inserting ''annual''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) The median earnings of workers described in section 239(j)(2)(A)(i)(III) during the second calendar quarter after exit from the program, expressed as a percentage of the median earnings of such workers before the calendar quarter in which such workers began receiving benefits under this chapter.''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) the reports required under section 239(j);''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''a quarterly'' and inserting ''an annual''.

(c) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL DEFINED.—Section 247 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2319) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(19) The term 'recognized postsecondary credential' means a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by a State or the Federal Government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.''.

SEC. 405. APPLICABILITY OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—

(1) PETITIONS FILED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014, AND BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

(A) CERTIFICATIONS OF WORKERS NOT CERTIFIED BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

(i) CRITERIA IF A DETERMINATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.—If, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor has not made a determination with respect to whether to certify a group of workers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in clause (iii), the Secretary shall make that determination based on the requirements of section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment.

(ii) RECONSIDERATION OF DENIALS OF CERTIFICATIONS.—If, before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary made a determination not to certify a group of workers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in clause (iii), the Secretary shall—

(I) reconsider that determination; and

(II) if the group of workers meets the requirements of section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment, certify the group of workers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

(iii) PETITION DESCRIBED.—A petition described in this clause is a petition for a certification of eligibility for a group of workers filed under section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after January 1, 2014, and before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a worker certified as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be eligible, on and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to receive benefits only under the provisions of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment.

(ii) COMPUTATION OF MAXIMUM BENEFITS.—Benefits received by a worker described in clause (i) under chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be included in any determination of the maximum benefits for which the worker is eligible under the provisions of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) PETITIONS FILED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014.—A worker certified as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance pursuant to a petition filed under section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or before December 31, 2013, shall continue to be eligible to apply for and receive benefits under the provisions of chapter 2 of title II of such Act, as in effect on December 31, 2013.

(3) QUALIFYING SEPARATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PETITIONS FILED WITHIN 90 DAYS OF DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Section 223(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be applied and administered by substituting ''before January 1, 2014'' for ''more than one year before the date of the petition on which such certification was granted'' for purposes of determining whether a worker is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance pursuant to a petition filed under section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act and on or before the date that is 90 days after such date of enactment.

(b) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—

(1) CERTIFICATION OF FIRMS NOT CERTIFIED BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

(A) CRITERIA IF A DETERMINATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.—If, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce has not made a determination with respect to whether to certify a firm as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall make that determination based on the requirements of section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment.

(B) RECONSIDERATION OF DENIAL OF CERTAIN PETITIONS.—If, before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary made a determination not to certify a firm as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall—

(i) reconsider that determination; and

(ii) if the firm meets the requirements of section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment, certify the firm as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

(C) PETITION DESCRIBED.—A petition described in this subparagraph is a petition for a certification of eligibility filed by a firm or its representative under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after January 1, 2014, and before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) CERTIFICATION OF FIRMS THAT DID NOT SUBMIT PETITIONS BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2014, AND DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall certify a firm described in subparagraph (B) as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, if the firm or its representative files a petition for a certification of eligibility under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 not later than 90 days after such date of enactment.

(B) FIRM DESCRIBED.—A firm described in this subparagraph is a firm that the Secretary determines would have been certified as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance if—

(i) the firm or its representative had filed a petition for a certification of eligibility under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 on a date during the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) the provisions of chapter 3 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment, had been in effect on that date during the period described in clause (i).

SEC. 406. SUNSET PROVISIONS.

(a) APPLICATION OF PRIOR LAW.—Subject to subsection (b), beginning on July 1, 2021, the provisions of chapters 2, 3, 5, and 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.), as in effect on January 1, 2014, shall be in effect and apply, except that in applying and administering such chapters—

(1) paragraph (1) of section 231(c) of that Act shall be applied and administered as if subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of that paragraph were not in effect;

(2) section 233 of that Act shall be applied and administered—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by substituting ''104-week period'' for ''104-week period'' and all that follows through ''130-week period)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by substituting ''65'' for ''52''; and

(II) by substituting ''78-week period'' for ''52-week period'' each place it appears; and

(B) by applying and administering subsection (g) as if it read as follows:

''(g) PAYMENT OF TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES TO COMPLETE TRAINING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in order to assist an adversely affected worker to complete training approved for the worker under section 236 that leads to the completion of a degree or industry-recognized credential, payments may be made as trade readjustment allowances for not more than 13 weeks within such period of eligibility as the Secretary may prescribe to account for a break in training or for justifiable cause that follows the last week for which the worker is otherwise entitled to a trade readjustment allowance under this chapter if—

''(1) payment of the trade readjustment allowance for not more than 13 weeks is necessary for the worker to complete the training;

''(2) the worker participates in training in each such week; and

''(3) the worker—

''(A) has substantially met the performance benchmarks established as part of the training approved for the worker;

''(B) is expected to continue to make progress toward the completion of the training; and

''(C) will complete the training during that period of eligibility.'';

(3) section 245(a) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting ''June 30, 2022'' for ''December 31, 2007'';

(4) section 246(b)(1) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting ''June 30, 2022'' for ''the date that is 5 years'' and all that follows through ''State'';

(5) section 256(b) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting ''the 1-year period beginning on July 1, 2021'' for ''each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007, and $4,000,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2007'';

(6) section 298(a) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting ''the 1-year period beginning on July 1, 2021'' for ''each of the fiscal years'' and all that follows through ''October 1, 2007''; and

(7) section 285 of that Act shall be applied and administered—

(A) in subsection (a), by substituting ''June 30, 2022'' for ''December 31, 2007'' each place it appears; and

(B) by applying and administering subsection (b) as if it read as follows:

''(b) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), assistance may not be provided under chapter 3 after June 30, 2022.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any assistance approved under chapter 3 pursuant to a petition filed under section 251 on or before June 30, 2022, may be provided—

''(i) to the extent funds are available pursuant to such chapter for such purpose; and

''(ii) to the extent the recipient of the assistance is otherwise eligible to receive such assistance.

''(2) FARMERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), assistance may not be provided under chapter 6 after June 30, 2022.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any assistance approved under chapter 6 on or before June 30, 2022, may be provided—

''(i) to the extent funds are available pursuant to such chapter for such purpose; and

''(ii) to the extent the recipient of the assistance is otherwise eligible to receive such assistance.''.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The provisions of chapters 2, 3, 5, and 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall continue to apply on and after July 1, 2021, with respect to—

(1) workers certified as eligible for trade adjustment assistance benefits under chapter 2 of

title II of that Act pursuant to petitions filed under section 221 of that Act before July 1, 2021;

(2) firms certified as eligible for technical assistance or grants under chapter 3 of title II of that Act pursuant to petitions filed under section 251 of that Act before July 1, 2021; and

(3) agricultural commodity producers certified as eligible for technical or financial assistance under chapter 6 of title II of that Act pursuant to petitions filed under section 292 of that Act before July 1, 2021.

SEC. 407. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF HEALTH COVERAGE TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subparagraph (B) of section 35(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''before January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''before January 1, 2020''.

(b) COORDINATION WITH CREDIT FOR COVERAGE UNDER A QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN.—Subsection (g) of section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (13), and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraphs:

''(11) ELECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—This section shall not apply to any taxpayer for any eligible coverage month unless such taxpayer elects the application of this section for such month.

''(B) TIMING AND APPLICABILITY OF ELECTION.—Except as the Secretary may provide—

''(i) an election to have this section apply for any eligible coverage month in a taxable year shall be made not later than the due date (including extensions) for the return of tax for the taxable year, and

''(ii) any election for this section to apply for an eligible coverage month shall apply for all subsequent eligible coverage months in the taxable year and, once made, shall be irrevocable with respect to such months.

''(12) COORDINATION WITH PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible coverage month to which the election under paragraph (11) applies shall not be treated as a coverage month (as defined in section 36B(c)(2)) for purposes of section 36B with respect to the taxpayer.

''(B) COORDINATION WITH ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.—In the case of a taxpayer who makes the election under paragraph (11) with respect to any eligible coverage month in a taxable year or on behalf of whom any advance payment is made under section 7527 with respect to any month in such taxable year—

''(i) the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year shall be increased by the excess, if any, of—

''(I) the sum of any advance payments made on behalf of the taxpayer under section 1412 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and section 7527 for months during such taxable year, over

''(II) the sum of the credits allowed under this section (determined without regard to paragraph (1)) and section 36B (determined without regard to subsection (f)(1) thereof) for such taxable year, and

''(ii) section 36B(f)(2) shall not apply with respect to such taxpayer for such taxable year, except that if such taxpayer received any advance payments under section 7527 for any month in such taxable year and is later allowed a credit under section 36B for such taxable year, then section 36B(f)(2)(B) shall be applied by substituting the amount determined under clause (i) for the amount determined under section 36B(f)(2)(A).''.

(c) EXTENSION OF ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 7527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''August 1, 2003'' and inserting ''the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 7527(e) of such Code is amended by striking ''occurring'' and all that follows and inserting ''occurring—

''(A) after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015, and

''(B) prior to the first month for which an advance payment is made on behalf of such individual under subsection (a).''.

(d) INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE TREATED AS QUALIFIED HEALTH INSURANCE WITHOUT REGARD TO ENROLLMENT DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (J) of section 35(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''insurance if the eligible individual'' and all that follows through ''For purposes of'' and inserting ''insurance. For purposes of''.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Subparagraph (J) of section 35(e)(1) of such Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by striking ''insurance.'' and inserting ''insurance (other than coverage enrolled in through an Exchange established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act).''.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (m) of section 6501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting '', 35(g)(11)'' after ''30D(e)(4)''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to coverage months in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(2) PLANS AVAILABLE ON INDIVIDUAL MARKET FOR USE OF TAX CREDIT.—The amendment made by subsection (d)(2) shall apply to coverage months in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(3) TRANSITION RULE.—Notwithstanding section 35(g)(11)(B)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this title), an election to apply section 35 of such Code to an eligible coverage month (as defined in section 35(b) of such Code) (and not to claim the credit under section 36B of such Code with respect to such month) in a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2013, and before the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) may be made at any time on or after such date of enactment and before the expiration of the 3-year period of limitation prescribed in section 6511(a) with respect to such taxable year; and

(B) may be made on an amended return.

(g) AGENCY OUTREACH.—As soon as possible after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of the Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Labor (or such Secretaries' delegates) and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (or the Director's delegate) shall carry out programs of public outreach, including on the Internet, to inform potential eligible individuals (as defined in section 35(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the extension of the credit under section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the availability of the election to claim such credit retroactively for coverage months beginning after December 31, 2013.

TITLE V—IMPROVEMENTS TO ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAWS

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''American Trade Enforcement Effectiveness Act''.

SEC. 502. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN A PROCEEDING.

Section 776 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(B) by striking ''ADVERSE INFERENCES.—If'' and inserting the following: ''ADVERSE INFERENCES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If'';

(C) by striking ''under this title, may use'' and inserting the following: ''under this title—

''(A) may use''; and

(D) by striking ''facts otherwise available. Such adverse inference may include'' and inserting the following: ''facts otherwise available; and

''(B) is not required to determine, or make any adjustments to, a countervailable subsidy rate or weighted average dumping margin based on any assumptions about information the interested party would have provided if the interested party had complied with the request for information.

''(2) POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR ADVERSE INFERENCES.—An adverse inference under paragraph (1)(A) may include'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''CORROBORATION OF SECONDARY INFORMATION.—When the'' and inserting the following: ''CORROBORATION OF SECONDARY INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), when the''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The administrative authority and the Commission shall not be required to corroborate any dumping margin or countervailing duty applied in a separate segment of the same proceeding.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) SUBSIDY RATES AND DUMPING MARGINS IN ADVERSE INFERENCE DETERMINATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the administering authority uses an inference that is adverse to the interests of a party under subsection (b)(1)(A) in selecting among the facts otherwise available, the administering authority may—

''(A) in the case of a countervailing duty proceeding—

''(i) use a countervailable subsidy rate applied for the same or similar program in a countervailing duty proceeding involving the same country, or

''(ii) if there is no same or similar program, use a countervailable subsidy rate for a subsidy program from a proceeding that the administering authority considers reasonable to use, and

''(B) in the case of an antidumping duty proceeding, use any dumping margin from any segment of the proceeding under the applicable antidumping order.

''(2) DISCRETION TO APPLY HIGHEST RATE.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the administering authority may apply any of the countervailable subsidy rates or dumping margins specified under that paragraph, including the highest such rate or margin, based on the evaluation by the administering authority of the situation that resulted in the administering authority using an adverse inference in selecting among the facts otherwise available.

''(3) NO OBLIGATION TO MAKE CERTAIN ESTIMATES OR ADDRESS CERTAIN CLAIMS.—If the administering authority uses an adverse inference under subsection (b)(1)(A) in selecting among the facts otherwise available, the administering authority is not required, for purposes of subsection (c) or for any other purpose—

''(A) to estimate what the countervailable subsidy rate or dumping margin would have been if the interested party found to have failed to cooperate under subsection (b)(1) had cooperated, or

''(B) to demonstrate that the countervailable subsidy rate or dumping margin used by the administering authority reflects an alleged commercial reality of the interested party.''.

SEC. 503. DEFINITION OF MATERIAL INJURY.

(a) EFFECT OF PROFITABILITY OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES.—Section 771(7) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(J) EFFECT OF PROFITABILITY.—The Commission may not determine that there is no material

injury or threat of material injury to an industry in the United States merely because that industry is profitable or because the performance of that industry has recently improved.''.

(b) EVALUATION OF IMPACT ON DOMESTIC INDUSTRY IN DETERMINATION OF MATERIAL INJURY.—Subclause (I) of section 771(7)(C)(iii) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(7)(C)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(I) actual and potential decline in output, sales, market share, gross profits, operating profits, net profits, ability to service debt, productivity, return on investments, return on assets, and utilization of capacity,''.

(c) CAPTIVE PRODUCTION.—Section 771(7)(C)(iv) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(7)(C)(iv)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by striking the comma and inserting '', and'';

(2) in subclause (II), by striking '', and'' and inserting a comma; and

(3) by striking subclause (III).

SEC. 504. PARTICULAR MARKET SITUATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF ORDINARY COURSE OF TRADE.—Section 771(15) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(15)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) Situations in which the administering authority determines that the particular market situation prevents a proper comparison with the export price or constructed export price.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF NORMAL VALUE.—Section 773(a)(1)(B)(ii)(III) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(a)(1)(B)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking ''in such other country.''.

(c) DEFINITION OF CONSTRUCTED VALUE.—Section 773(e) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''business'' and inserting ''trade''; and

(2) by striking the flush text at the end and inserting the following:

''For purposes of paragraph (1), if a particular market situation exists such that the cost of materials and fabrication or other processing of any kind does not accurately reflect the cost of production in the ordinary course of trade, the administering authority may use another calculation methodology under this subtitle or any other calculation methodology. For purposes of paragraph (1), the cost of materials shall be determined without regard to any internal tax in the exporting country imposed on such materials or their disposition that is remitted or refunded upon exportation of the subject merchandise produced from such materials.''.

SEC. 505. DISTORTION OF PRICES OR COSTS.

(a) INVESTIGATION OF BELOW-COST SALES.—Section 773(b)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(b)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE OR SUSPECT.—

''(i) REVIEW.—In a review conducted under section 751 involving a specific exporter, there are reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that sales of the foreign like product have been made at prices that are less than the cost of production of the product if the administering authority disregarded some or all of the exporter's sales pursuant to paragraph (1) in the investigation or, if a review has been completed, in the most recently completed review.

''(ii) REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.—In an investigation initiated under section 732 or a review conducted under section 751, the administering authority shall request information necessary to calculate the constructed value and cost of production under subsections (e) and (f) to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that sales of the foreign like product have been made at prices that represent less than the cost of production of the product.''.

(b) PRICES AND COSTS IN NONMARKET ECONOMIES.—Section 773(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DISCRETION TO DISREGARD CERTAIN PRICE OR COST VALUES.—In valuing the factors of production under paragraph (1) for the subject merchandise, the administering authority may disregard price or cost values without further investigation if the administering authority has determined that broadly available export subsidies existed or particular instances of subsidization occurred with respect to those price or cost values or if those price or cost values were subject to an antidumping order.''.

SEC. 506. REDUCTION IN BURDEN ON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY RESPONDENTS.

Section 782(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677m(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and by moving such clauses, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(3) by striking ''INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEWS.—In'' and inserting the following: ''INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In'';

(4) in paragraph (1), as designated by paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (2), to read as follows:

''(B) the number of exporters or producers subject to the investigation or review is not so large that any additional individual examination of such exporters or producers would be unduly burdensome to the administering authority and inhibit the timely completion of the investigation or review.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) DETERMINATION OF UNDULY BURDENSOME.—In determining if an individual examination under paragraph (1)(B) would be unduly burdensome, the administering authority may consider the following:

''(A) The complexity of the issues or information presented in the proceeding, including questionnaires and any responses thereto.

''(B) Any prior experience of the administering authority in the same or similar proceeding.

''(C) The total number of investigations under subtitle A or B and reviews under section 751 being conducted by the administering authority as of the date of the determination.

''(D) Such other factors relating to the timely completion of each such investigation and review as the administering authority considers appropriate.''.

SEC. 507. APPLICATION TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

Pursuant to article 1902 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and section 408 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3438), the amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to goods from Canada and Mexico.

TITLE VI—TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN ARTICLES

SEC. 601. TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF RECREATIONAL PERFORMANCE OUTERWEAR.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO ADDITIONAL U.S. NOTES.—The Additional U.S. Notes to chapter 62 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States are amended—

(1) in Additional U.S. Note 2—

(A) by striking ''For the purposes of subheadings'' and all that follows through ''6211.20.15'' and inserting ''For purposes of this chapter'';

(B) by striking ''garments classifiable in those subheadings'' and inserting ''a garment''; and

(C) by striking ''D 3600-81'' and inserting ''D 3779–81''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new notes:

''(c) For purposes of this chapter, the term 'recreational performance outerwear' means trousers (including, but not limited to, paddling pants, ski or snowboard pants, and ski or snowboard pants intended for sale as parts of ski-suits), coveralls and bib overalls, and jackets (including, but not limited to, full zip jackets, paddling jackets, ski jackets, and ski jackets intended for sale as parts of ski-suits), windbreakers, and similar articles (including padded, sleeveless jackets) composed of fabrics of cotton, wool, hemp, bamboo, silk, or manmade fiber, or a combination of such fibers, that are either water resistant or treated with plastics, or both, with critically sealed seams, and with five or more of the following features:

''(1) Insulation for cold weather protection.

''(2) Pockets, at least one of which has a zippered, hook and loop, or other type of closure.

''(3) Elastic, drawcord, or other means of tightening around the waist or leg hems, including hidden leg sleeves with a means of tightening at the ankle for trousers and tightening around the waist or bottom hem for jackets.

''(4) Venting, not including grommet(s).

''(5) Articulated elbows or knees.

''(6) Reinforcement in one of the following areas: the elbows, shoulders, seat, knees, ankles, or cuffs.

''(7) Weatherproof closure at the waist or front.

''(8) Multi-adjustable hood or adjustable collar.

''(9) Adjustable powder skirt, inner protective skirt, or adjustable inner protective cuff at sleeve hem.

''(10) Construction at the arm gusset that utilizes fabric, design, or patterning to allow radial arm movement.

''(11) Odor control technology.

The term 'recreational performance outerwear' does not include occupational outerwear.

''(d) For purposes of this Note, the following terms have the following meanings:

''(1) The term 'treated with plastics' refers to textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered, or laminated with plastics, as described in Note 2 to chapter 59.

''(2) The term 'sealed seams' means seams that have been covered by means of taping, gluing, bonding, cementing, fusing, welding, or a similar process so that water cannot pass through the seams when tested in accordance with the current version of AATCC Test Method 35.

''(3) The term 'critically sealed seams' means—

''(A) for jackets, windbreakers, and similar articles (including padded, sleeveless jackets), sealed seams that are sealed at the front and back yokes, or at the shoulders, arm holes, or both, where applicable; and

''(B) for trousers, overalls and bib overalls and similar articles, sealed seams that are sealed at the front (up to the zipper or other means of closure) and back rise.

''(4) The term 'insulation for cold weather protection' means insulation with either synthetic fill, down, a laminated thermal backing, or other lining for thermal protection from cold weather.

''(5) The term 'venting' refers to closeable or permanent constructed openings in a garment (excluding front, primary zipper closures and grommet(s)) to allow increased expulsion of built-up heat during outdoor activities. In a jacket, such openings are often positioned on the underarm seam of a garment but may also be placed along other seams in the front or back of a garment. In trousers, such openings are often positioned on the inner or outer leg seams of a garment but may also be placed along other seams in the front or back of a garment.

''(6) The term 'articulated elbows or knees' refers to the construction of a sleeve (or pant leg) to allow improved mobility at the elbow (or knee) through the use of extra seams, darts, gussets, or other means.

''(7) The term 'reinforcement' refers to the use of a double layer of fabric or section(s) of fabric that is abrasion-resistant or otherwise more durable than the face fabric of the garment.

''(8) The term 'weatherproof closure' means a closure (including, but not limited to, laminated or coated zippers, storm flaps, or other weatherproof construction) that has been reinforced or engineered in a manner to reduce the penetration or absorption of moisture or air through an opening in the garment.

''(9) The term 'multi-adjustable hood or adjustable collar' means, in the case of a hood, a hood into which is incorporated two or more draw cords, adjustment tabs, or elastics, or, in the case of a collar, a collar into which is incorporated at least one draw cord, adjustment tab, elastic, or similar component, to allow volume adjustments around a helmet, or the crown of the head, neck, or face.

''(10) The terms 'adjustable powder skirt' and 'inner protective skirt' refer to a partial lower inner lining with means of tightening around the waist for additional protection from the elements.

''(11) The term 'arm gusset' means construction at the arm of a gusset that utilizes an extra fabric piece in the underarm, usually diamond- or triangular-shaped, designed, or patterned to allow radial arm movement.

''(12) The term 'radial arm movement' refers to unrestricted, 180-degree range of motion for the arm while wearing performance outerwear.

''(13) The term 'odor control technology' means the incorporation into a fabric or garment of materials, including, but not limited to, activated carbon, silver, copper, or any combination thereof, capable of adsorbing, absorbing, or reacting with human odors, or effective in reducing the growth of odor-causing bacteria.

''(14) The term 'occupational outerwear' means outerwear garments, including uniforms, designed or marketed for use in the workplace or at a worksite to provide durable protection from cold or inclement weather and/or workplace hazards, such as fire, electrical, abrasion, or chemical hazards, or impacts, cuts, punctures, or similar hazards.

''(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(i) of this Note, for purposes of this chapter, Notes 1 and 2(a)(1) to chapter 59 and Note 1(c) to chapter 60 shall be disregarded in classifying goods as 'recreational performance outerwear'.

''(f) For purposes of this chapter, the importer of record shall maintain internal import records that specify upon entry whether garments claimed as recreational performance outerwear have an outer surface that is water resistant, treated with plastics, or a combination thereof, and shall further enumerate the specific features that make the garments eligible to be classified as recreational performance outerwear.''.

(b) TARIFF CLASSIFICATIONS.—Chapter 62 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended as follows:

(1) By striking subheading 6201.11.00 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.11 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.11.00 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6201.11	Of wool or fine animal hair:				
	6201.11.05	Recreational performance outerwear	41¢/kg + 16.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 16.4¢/kg + 6.5% (OM)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	
	6201.11.10	Other	41¢/kg + 16.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 16.4¢/kg + 6.5% (OM)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	''.

(2) By striking subheadings 6201.12.10 and 6201.12.20 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.12.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.12.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6201.12.05	Recreational performance outerwear	9.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	60%	
		Other:				
	6201.12.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down.	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%	
	6201.12.20	Other	9.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	''.

(3) By striking subheadings 6201.13.10 through 6201.13.40 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.13.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.13.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6201.13.05	Recreational performance outerwear	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
		Other:				

6201.13.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%	
	Other:				
6201.13.30	Containing 36 percent or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair	49.7¢/kg + 19.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	
6201.13.40	Other	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	''.

(4) By striking subheadings 6201.19.10 and 6201.19.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.19.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.19.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6201.19.05	Recreational performance outerwear	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	
		Other:				
	6201.19.10	Containing 70 percent or more by weight of silk or silk waste	Free		35%	
	6201.19.90	Other	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	''.

(5) By striking subheadings 6201.91.10 and 6201.91.20 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.91.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.91.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6201.91.05	Recreational performance outerwear	49.7¢/kg + 19.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 19.8¢/kg + 7.8% (OM)	58.5%	
		Other:				
	6201.91.10	Padded, sleeveless jackets	8.5%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 7.6% (AU) 3.4% (OM)	58.5%	
	6201.91.20	Other	49.7¢/kg + 19.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 19.8¢/kg + 7.8% (OM)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	''.

(6) By striking subheadings 6201.92.10 through 6201.92.20 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.92.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.92.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6201.92.05	Recreational performance outerwear	9.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
		Other:				
	6201.92.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%	
		Other:				
	6201.92.15	Water resistant	6.2%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 5.5% (AU)	37.5%	
	6201.92.20	Other	9.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	’’.

(7) By striking subheadings 6201.93.10 through 6201.93.35 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.93.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.93.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6201.93.05	Recreational performance outerwear	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
		Other:				
	6201.93.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%	
		Other:				
	6201.93.20	Padded, sleeveless jackets	14.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%	
		Other:				
	6201.93.25	Containing 36 percent or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair	49.5¢/kg + 19.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	
		Other:				
	6201.93.30	Water resistant	7.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU)	65%	

	6201.93.35	Other	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	".

(8) By striking subheadings 6201.99.10 and 6201.99.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6201.99.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6201.99.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6201.99.05	Recreational performance outerwear	4.2%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.7% (AU)	35%	
		Other:				
	6201.99.10	Containing 70 percent or more by weight of silk or silk waste	Free		35%	
	6201.99.90	Other	4.2%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.7% (AU)	35%	".

(9) By striking subheading 6202.11.00 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.11 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.11.00 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6202.11	Of wool or fine animal hair:				
	6202.11.05	Recreational performance outerwear	41¢/kg + 16.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 16.4¢/kg + 6.5% (OM)	46.3¢/kg + 58.5%	
	6202.11.10	Other	41¢/kg + 16.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 16.4¢/kg + 6.5% (OM)	46.3¢/kg + 58.5%	".

(10) By striking subheadings 6202.12.10 and 6202.12.20 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.12.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.12.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6202.12.05	Recreational performance outerwear	8.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
		Other:				
	6202.12.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%	
	6202.12.20	Other	8.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	".

(11) By striking subheadings 6202.13.10 through 6202.13.40 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.13.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.13.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6202.13.05	Recreational performance outerwear	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
		Other:				
	6202.13.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%	
		Other:				
	6202.13.30	Containing 36 percent or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair	43.5¢/kg + 19.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	46.3¢/kg + 58.5%	
	6202.13.40	Other	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	".

(12) By striking subheadings 6202.19.10 and 6202.19.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.19.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.19.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6202.19.05	Recreational performance outerwear	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	
		Other:				
	6202.19.10	Containing 70 percent or more by weight or silk or silk waste	Free		35%	
	6202.19.90	Other	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	".

(13) By striking subheadings 6202.91.10 and 6202.91.20 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.91.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.91.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6202.91.05	Recreational performance outerwear	36¢/kg + 16.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 14.4¢/kg + 6.5% (OM)	58.5%	
		Other:				
	6202.91.10	Padded, sleeveless jackets	14%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 5.6% (OM)	58.5%	
	6202.91.20	Other	36¢/kg + 16.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 14.4¢/kg + 6.5% (OM)	46.3¢/kg + 58.5%	".

(14) By striking subheadings 6202.92.10 through 6202.92.20 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.92.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.92.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6202.92.05	Recreational performance outerwear	8.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
		Other:				
	6202.92.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%	
		Other:				
	6202.92.15	Water resistant	6.2%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 5.5% (AU)	37.5%	
	6202.92.20	Other	8.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	’’.

(15) By striking subheadings 6202.93.10 through 6202.93.50 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.93.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.93.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6202.93.05	Recreational performance outerwear	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%
		Other:			
	6202.93.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	4.4%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 3.9% (AU)	60%
		Other:			
	6202.93.20	Padded, sleeveless jackets	14.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%
		Other:			
	6202.93.40	Containing 36 percent or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair	43.4¢/kg + 19.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	46.3¢/kg + 58.5%
		Other:			
	6202.93.45	Water resistant	7.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU)	65%

	6202.93.50	Other	27.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	''.

(16) By striking subheadings 6202.99.10 and 6202.99.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6202.99.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6202.99.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6202.99.05	Recreational performance outerwear	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	
		Other:				
	6202.99.10	Containing 70 percent or more by weight of silk or silk waste	Free		35%	
	6202.99.90	Other	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	''.

(17) By striking subheadings 6203.41 and 6203.41.05, and the superior text to subheading 6203.41.05, and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6203.41 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6203.41 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6203.41	Of wool or fine animal hair:				
	6203.41.05	Recreational performance outerwear	41.9¢/kg + 16.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO,IL, JO,KR, MA,MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 16.7¢/kg + 6.5% (OM)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	
		Trousers, breeches and shorts:				
	6203.41.10	Trousers and breeches, containing elastomeric fiber, water resistant, without belt loops, weighing more than 9 kg per dozen	7.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.8% (AU) 3% (OM)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	''.

(18) By striking subheadings 6203.42.10 through 6203.42.40 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6203.42.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6203.42.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6203.42.05	Recreational performance outerwear	16.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.6% (KR)	90%	
		Other:				
	6203.42.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	Free		60%	
		Other:				
	6203.42.20	Bib and brace overalls	10.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
	6203.42.40	Other	16.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.6% (KR)	90%	’’.

(19) By striking subheadings 6203.43.10 through 6203.43.40 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6203.43.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6203.43.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6203.43.05	Recreational performance outerwear	27.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.1% (KR)	90%	
		Other:				
	6203.43.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	Free		60%	
		Other:				
		Bib and brace overalls:				
	6203.43.15	Water resistant	7.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU)	65%	
	6203.43.20	Other	14.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%	
		Other:				
	6203.43.25	Certified hand-loomed and folklore products	12.2%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%	
		Other:				
	6203.43.30	Containing 36 percent or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair	49.6¢/kg + 19.7%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	52.9¢/kg + 58.5%	
		Other:				

6203.43.35	Water resistant trousers or breeches	7.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU) 2.8% (KR)	65%	
6203.43.40	Other	27.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.1% (KR)	90%	''.

(20) By striking subheadings 6203.49 through 6203.49.80 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6203.49 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6203.49 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	6203.49	Of other textile materials:				
	6203.49.05	Recreational performance outerwear	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 1.1% (KR)	35%	
		Other:				
		Of artificial fibers:				
	6203.49.10	Bib and brace overalls	8.5%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 7.6% (AU)	76%	
		Trousers, breeches and shorts:				
	6203.49.15	Certified hand-loomed and folklore products	12.2%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%	
	6203.49.20	Other	27.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
	6203.49.40	Containing 70 percent or more by weight of silk or silk waste	Free		35%	
	6203.49.80	Other	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 1.1% (KR)	35%	''.

(21) By striking subheadings 6204.61.10 and 6204.61.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6204.61.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6204.61.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6204.61.05	Recreational performance outerwear	13.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 5.4% (OM) 8% (AU)	58.5%	
		Other:				
	6204.61.10	Trousers and breeches, containing elastomeric fiber, water resistant, without belt loops, weighing more than 6 kg per dozen	7.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 3% (OM) 6.8% (AU)	58.5%	
	6204.61.90	Other	13.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 5.4% (OM) 8% (AU)	58.5%	’’.

(22) By striking subheadings 6204.62.10 through 6204.62.40 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6204.62.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6204.62.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6204.62.05	Recreational performance outerwear	16.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.6% (KR)	90%	
		Other:				
	6204.62.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	Free		60%	
		Other:				
	6204.62.20	Bib and brace overalls	8.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	90%	
		Other:				
	6204.62.30	Certified hand-loomed and folklore products	7.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, E, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU)	37.5%	
	6204.62.40	Other	16.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.6% (KR)	90%	’’.

(23) By striking subheadings 6204.63.10 through 6204.63.35 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6204.63.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6204.63.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6204.63.05	Recreational performance outerwear	28.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.4% (KR)	90%	
		Other:				
	6204.63.10	Containing 15 percent or more by weight of down and waterfowl plumage and of which down comprises 35 percent or more by weight; containing 10 percent or more by weight of down	Free		60%	
		Other:				
		Bib and brace overalls:				
	6204.63.12	Water resistant	7.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU)	65%	
	6204.63.15	Other	14.9%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%	
	6204.63.20	Certified hand-loomed and folklore products	11.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, E, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%	
		Other:				
	6204.63.25	Containing 36 percent or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair	13.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	58.5%	
		Other:				
	6204.63.30	Water resistant trousers or breeches	7.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU)	65%	
	6204.63.35	Other	28.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 11.4% (KR)	90%	’’.

(24) By striking subheadings 6204.69 through 6204.69.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6204.69 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6204.69 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6204.69	Of other textile materials:				
	6204.69.05	Recreational performance outerwear	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	
		Other:				
		Of artificial fibers:				
	6204.69.10	Bib and brace overalls	13.6%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)	76%	

	Trousers, breeches and shorts:				
6204.69.20	*Containing 36 percent or more by weight of wool or fine animal hair*	*13.6%*	*Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)*	*58.5%*	
6204.69.25	*Other*	*28.6%*	*Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU)*	*90%*	
	Of silk or silk waste:				
6204.69.40	*Containing 70 percent or more by weight of silk or silk waste*	*1.1%*	*Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E, IL, J, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)*	*65%*	
6204.69.60	*Other*	*7.1%*	*Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.3% (AU)*	*65%*	
6204.69.90	*Other*	*2.8%*	*Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)*	*35%*	''.

(25) By striking subheadings 6210.40.30 and 6210.40.50 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6210.40.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6210.40.30 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

''	*6210.40.05*	*Recreational performance outerwear*	*7.1%*	*Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PE, SG)*	*65%*	
		Other:				
	6210.40.30	*Having an outer surface impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with rubber or plastics material which completely obscures the underlying fabric*	*3.8%*	*Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PE, SG)*	*65%*	
	6210.40.50	*Other*	*7.1%*	*Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PE, SG)*	*65%*	''.

(26) By striking subheadings 6210.50.30 and 6210.50.50 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6210.50.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6210.50.30 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6210.50.05	Recreational performance outerwear	7.1%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PE, SG)	65%	
		Other:				
	6210.50.30	Having an outer surface impreg- nated, coated, covered or laminated with rubber or plastics material which completely obscures the underlying fabric	3.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PE, SG)	65%	
	6210.50.50	Other	7.1%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PE, SG)	65%	".

(27) By striking subheading 6211.32.00 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6211.32 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6211.32.00 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6211.32	Of cotton:				
	6211.32.05	Recreational performance outerwear	8.1%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	90%	
	6211.32.10	Other	8.1%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	90%	".

(28) By striking subheading 6211.33.00 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6211.33 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6211.33.00 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

"	6211.33	Of man-made fibers:				
	6211.33.05	Recreational performance outerwear	16%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.4% (OM)	76%	
	6211.33.10	Other	16%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.4% (OM)	76%	".

(29) By striking subheadings 6211.39.05 through 6211.39.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6211.39.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6211.39.05 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6211.39.05	Recreational performance outerwear	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	
		Other:				
	6211.39.10	Of wool or fine animal hair	12%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 4.8% (OM)	58.5%	
	6211.39.20	Containing 70 percent or more by weight of silk or silk waste	0.5%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	
	6211.39.90	Other	2.8%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E*, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	’’.

(30) By striking subheading 6211.42.00 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6211.42 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6211.42.00 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6211.42	Of cotton:				
	6211.42.05	Recreational performance outerwear	8.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 7.2% (AU)	90%	
	6211.42.10	Other	8.1%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 7.2% (AU)	90%	’’.

(31) By striking subheading 6211.43.00 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6211.43 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6211.43.00 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6211.43	Of man-made fibers:				
	6211.43.05	Recreational performance outerwear	16%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 6.4% (OM)	90%	
	6211.43.10	Other	16%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 8% (AU) 6.4% (OM)	90%	’’.

(32) By striking subheadings 6211.49.10 through 6211.49.90 and inserting the following, with the article description for subheading 6211.49.05 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6211.49.10 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act):

‘‘	6211.49.05	Recreational performance outerwear	7.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, E, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.5% (AU) 2.9% (KR)	35%	
		Other:				
	6211.49.10	Containing 70 percent or more by weight of silk or silk waste	1.2%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, CO, E, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG)	35%	
	6211.49.41	Of wool or fine animal hair	12%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, P, PA, PE, SG) 4.8% (OM) 8% (AU)	58.5%	
	6211.49.90	Other	7.3%	Free (BH, CA, CL, CO, E, IL, JO, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, SG) 6.5% (AU) 2.9% (KR)	35%	’’.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall—

(1) take effect on the 180th day after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after such 180th day.

SEC. 602. DUTY TREATMENT OF PROTECTIVE ACTIVE FOOTWEAR.

(a) DEFINITION OF PROTECTIVE ACTIVE FOOTWEAR.—The Additional U.S. Notes to chapter 64 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States are amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(f) For the purposes of subheadings 6402.91.42 and 6402.99.32, the term ‘protective active footwear’ means footwear (other than footwear described in Subheading Note 1) that is designed for outdoor activities, such as hiking shoes, trekking shoes, running shoes, and trail running shoes, the foregoing valued over $24/pair and which provides protection against water that is imparted by the use of a coated or laminated textile fabric.’’.

(b) DUTY TREATMENT FOR PROTECTIVE ACTIVE FOOTWEAR.—Chapter 64 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended as follows:

(1) By inserting after subheading 6402.91.40 the following new subheading, with the article description for subheading 6402.91.42 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6402.91.40:

‘‘	6402.91.42	Protective active footwear (except footwear with waterproof molded bottoms, including bottoms comprising an outer sole and all or part of the upper and except footwear with insulation that provides protection against cold weather), whose height from the bottom of the outer sole to the top of the upper does not exceed 15.34 cm	20%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, D, E, IL, JO, KR, MA, MX, OM, P, PA, PE, R, SG)	35%	’’.

(2) By inserting immediately preceding subheading 6402.99.33 the following new subheading, with the article description for subheading 6402.99.32 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 6402.99.33:

‘‘	6402.99.32	Protective active footwear	20%	Free (AU, BH, CA, CL, D, IL, JO, MA, MX, P) 1% (PA) 6% (OM) 6% (PE) 12% (CO) 20% (KR)	35%	’’.

(c) STAGED RATE REDUCTIONS.—The staged reductions in special rates of duty proclaimed for subheading 6402.99.90 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be applied to subheading 6402.99.32 of such Schedule, as added by subsection (b)(2), beginning in calendar year 2016.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall—

(1) take effect on the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after such 15th day.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. REPORT ON CONTRIBUTION OF TRADE PREFERENCE PROGRAMS TO REDUCING POVERTY AND ELIMINATING HUNGER.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the contribution of the trade preference programs of the United States, including the Generalized System of Preferences under title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.), the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), and the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), to the reduction of poverty and the elimination of hunger.

TITLE VIII—OFFSETS

SEC. 801. CUSTOMS USER FEES EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13031(j)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)(A)) is amended by striking ‘‘September 30, 2024’’ and inserting ‘‘July 7, 2025’’.

(b) RATE FOR MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES.—Section 503 of the United States–Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112–41; 125 Stat. 460) is amended by striking ‘‘June 30, 2021’’ and inserting ‘‘June 30, 2025’’.

SEC. 802. ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS USER FEES EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''September 30, 2024'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) Fees may be charged under paragraphs (9) and (10) of subsection (a) during the period beginning on July 29, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025.''.

(b) RATE FOR MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES.—Section 503 of the United States–Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112–41; 125 Stat. 460) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) FURTHER ADDITIONAL PERIOD.—For the period beginning on July 15, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, section 13031(a)(9) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(9)) shall be applied and administered—

''(1) in subparagraph (A), by substituting '0.3464' for '0.21'; and

''(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by substituting '0.3464' for '0.21'.''.

SEC. 803. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.

Notwithstanding section 6655 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the case of a corporation with assets of not less than $1,000,000,000 (determined as of the end of the preceding taxable year)—

(1) the amount of any required installment of corporate estimated tax which is otherwise due in July, August, or September of 2020 shall be increased by 8 percent of such amount (determined without regard to any increase in such amount not contained in such Code); and

(2) the amount of the next required installment after an installment referred to in paragraph (1) shall be appropriately reduced to reflect the amount of the increase by reason of such paragraph.

SEC. 804. PAYEE STATEMENT REQUIRED TO CLAIM CERTAIN EDUCATION TAX BENEFITS.

(a) AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY CREDIT, HOPE SCHOLARSHIP CREDIT, AND LIFETIME LEARNING CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 25A(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) PAYEE STATEMENT REQUIREMENT.—Except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, no credit shall be allowed under this section unless the taxpayer receives a statement furnished under section 6050S(d) which contains all of the information required by paragraph (2) thereof.''.

(2) STATEMENT RECEIVED BY DEPENDENT.—Section 25A(g)(3) of such Code is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting '', and'', and by adding at the end the following:

''(C) a statement described in paragraph (8) and received by such individual shall be treated as received by the taxpayer.''.

(b) DEDUCTION FOR QUALIFIED TUITION AND RELATED EXPENSES.—Section 222(d) of such Code is amended by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7), and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

''(6) PAYEE STATEMENT REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, no deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) unless the taxpayer receives a statement furnished under section 6050S(d) which contains all of the information required by paragraph (2) thereof.

''(B) STATEMENT RECEIVED BY DEPENDENT.—The receipt of the statement referred to in subparagraph (A) by an individual described in subsection (c)(3) shall be treated for purposes of subparagraph (A) as received by the taxpayer.''.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED ON PAYEE STATEMENT.—Section 6050S(d)(2) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

''(2) the information required by subsection (b)(2).''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 805. SPECIAL RULE FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNABLE TO COLLECT TINS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH RESPECT TO HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION AND RELATED EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6724 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETURNS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION AND RELATED EXPENSES.—No penalty shall be imposed under section 6721 or 6722 solely by reason of failing to provide the TIN of an individual on a return or statement required by section 6050S(a)(1) if the eligible educational institution required to make such return contemporaneously makes a true and accurate certification under penalty of perjury (and in such form and manner as may be prescribed by the Secretary) that it has complied with standards promulgated by the Secretary for obtaining such individual's TIN.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to returns required to be made, and statements required to be furnished, after December 31, 2015.

SEC. 806. PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO FILE CORRECT INFORMATION RETURNS AND PROVIDE PAYEE STATEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6721(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$250''; and

(2) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000''.

(b) REDUCTION WHERE CORRECTION IN SPECIFIED PERIOD.—

(1) CORRECTION WITHIN 30 DAYS.—Section 6721(b)(1) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking ''$30'' and inserting ''$50'';

(B) by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$250''; and

(C) by striking ''$250,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''.

(2) FAILURES CORRECTED ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1.—Section 6721(b)(2) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking ''$60'' and inserting ''$100'';

(B) by striking ''$100'' (prior to amendment by subparagraph (A)) and inserting ''$250''; and

(C) by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$1,500,000''.

(c) LOWER LIMITATION FOR PERSONS WITH GROSS RECEIPTS OF NOT MORE THAN $5,000,000.—Section 6721(d)(1) of such Code is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$1,000,000''; and

(B) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''$75,000'' and inserting ''$175,000''; and

(B) by striking ''$250,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''; and

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking ''$200,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''; and

(B) by striking ''$500,000'' (prior to amendment by subparagraph (A)) and inserting ''$1,500,000''.

(d) PENALTY IN CASE OF INTENTIONAL DISREGARD.—Section 6721(e) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking ''$250'' in paragraph (2) and inserting ''$500''; and

(2) by striking ''$1,500,000'' in paragraph (3)(A) and inserting ''$3,000,000''.

(e) FAILURE TO FURNISH CORRECT PAYEE STATEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6722(a)(1) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$250''; and

(B) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000''.

(2) REDUCTION WHERE CORRECTION IN SPECIFIED PERIOD.—

(A) CORRECTION WITHIN 30 DAYS.—Section 6722(b)(1) of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking ''$30'' and inserting ''$50'';

(ii) by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$250''; and

(iii) by striking ''$250,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''.

(B) FAILURES CORRECTED ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1.—Section 6722(b)(2) of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking ''$60'' and inserting ''$100'';

(ii) by striking ''$100'' (prior to amendment by clause (i)) and inserting ''$250''; and

(iii) by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$1,500,000''.

(3) LOWER LIMITATION FOR PERSONS WITH GROSS RECEIPTS OF NOT MORE THAN $5,000,000.—Section 6722(d)(1) of such Code is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$1,000,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$3,000,000'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''$75,000'' and inserting ''$175,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''$250,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking ''$200,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''$500,000'' (prior to amendment by subparagraph (A)) and inserting ''$1,500,000''.

(4) PENALTY IN CASE OF INTENTIONAL DISREGARD.—Section 6722(e) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking ''$250'' in paragraph (2) and inserting ''$500''; and

(B) by striking ''$1,500,000'' in paragraph (3)(A) and inserting ''$3,000,000''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to returns and statements required to be filed after December 31, 2015.

SEC. 807. CHILD TAX CREDIT NOT REFUNDABLE FOR TAXPAYERS ELECTING TO EXCLUDE FOREIGN EARNED INCOME FROM TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) EXCEPTION FOR TAXPAYERS EXCLUDING FOREIGN EARNED INCOME.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any taxpayer for any taxable year if such taxpayer elects to exclude any amount from gross income under section 911 for such taxable year.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 808. COVERAGE AND PAYMENT FOR RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY.

(a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s)(2)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)(F)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', including such renal dialysis services furnished on or after January 1, 2017, by a renal dialysis facility or provider of services paid under section 1881(b)(14) to an individual with acute kidney injury (as defined in section 1834(r)(2))''.

(b) PAYMENT.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(r) PAYMENT FOR RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY.—

''(1) PAYMENT RATE.—In the case of renal dialysis services (as defined in subparagraph (B) of section 1881(b)(14)) furnished under this part by a renal dialysis facility or provider of services paid under such section during a year (beginning with 2017) to an individual with acute kidney injury (as defined in paragraph (2)), the amount of payment under this part for such

services shall be the base rate for renal dialysis services determined for such year under such section, as adjusted by any applicable geographic adjustment factor applied under subparagraph (D)(iv)(II) of such section and may be adjusted by the Secretary (on a budget neutral basis for payments under this paragraph) by any other adjustment factor under subparagraph (D) of such section.

''(2) INDIVIDUAL WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'individual with acute kidney injury' means an individual who has acute loss of renal function and does not receive renal dialysis services for which payment is made under section 1881(b)(14).''.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1295.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 338, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

□ 1100

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. 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 to H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, who is the author of the Trade Adjustment Assistance bill.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank him for his leadership on this series of trade bills that we have been considering for the last few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the preferences bill before us. This bipartisan legislation renews both the Generalized System of Preferences and the African Growth and Opportunity Act. GSP is an important program, both to Washington State businesses and promoting economic development across the globe.

Similarly, the renewal of AGOA is critical to further strengthening our ties with Africa. The strong bipartisan vote this legislation received weeks ago made clear there is strong support for these programs in Congress and among the American people.

Also included in this legislation is a renewal of Trade Adjustment Assistance, and I am proud, as Mr. RYAN said, to sponsor the House legislation to renew TAA because there is a need for this program. I believe increased trade is good for all Americans. It creates jobs and it makes America stronger. But I also understand that as we create jobs and trade, and our jobs change over the next few years, along the way some workers may need extra assistance and additional training. That is why TAA is so important.

Now, we have made great strides this past week by sending TPA to the President's desk; and I am also proud that TPA was attached to another bill, which happened to be a labor bill, TSP, which created a fair application of retirement benefits for Federal public safety officers. Now, Mr. Speaker, we must move forward, pass TAA and AGOA today, General System of Preferences.

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

Mr. Speaker, the debate these last weeks and months has been about how do we get a strong and effective trade policy and trade agreement. That debate only intensifies now. Supporters of trade promotion authority, TPA, thought vague negotiating objectives and a passive role for Congress in the process were the way to go, in part because many on the majority side feel that more trade is essentially better, no matter its terms or conditions.

The opponents of TPA wanted to ensure that TPP negotiations were on the right track, with no blank check to USTR, when there are so many outstanding areas where we are not satisfied with the status of negotiations or where we are uncertain of their outcome. Now we can focus like a laser beam on those issues. The argument about the process of TPA is now behind us and the challenge of the substance of TPP smack in front of us.

Automatic embrace of centuries-old doctrines does not meet the challenges of intensifying globalization, so we will continue to shine a bright light on the critical issues, like market access, state-owned enterprises, intellectual property and access to medicines, worker rights, environment, currency manipulation, and investment provisions that could put at risk domestic regulations. Our calls for improvements to the negotiations will only grow louder.

In order for TPP to gain the support of the American people, it will need to gain the votes of a much broader coalition of Members of Congress than voted for TPA. The issue is not protrade versus antitrade, but whether we shape trade agreements to spread the benefits broadly, including the middle class of Americans.

Take, for example, the two trade bills before us today: the African Growth and Opportunity Act and our trade preferences programs. House Democrats have been key architects of these programs. For example, in the 1990s, our colleagues CHARLIE RANGEL and JIM MCDERMOTT, working with Phil Crane, laid the foundation for the African Growth and Opportunity Act of 2000.

These programs are designed to help shape trade, to ensure that its benefits are more broadly based. We can see that in AGOA, stronger labor and other eligibility criteria and the inclusion of textile and apparel products can give us additional leverage to help raise living standards.

The same is doubly true with the Haiti program. While there is much work to be done in Haiti, one critical element of our program, inspections of factories by the independent group Better Work, is resulting in improved compliance with Haitian labor laws and better conditions for workers there.

Finally, this bill includes a reauthorization of Trade Adjustment Assistance. I am an ardent supporter of TAA and introduced a bill earlier this year with ADAM SMITH to reauthorize it. I support H.R. 1295. To be sure, this TAA is not perfect. It falls short of the high water mark we established for the program in 2009.

At a time when trade is expanding and is expected to expand even further with new trade agreements, we should be ensuring adequate funding for workers who lose their jobs as a result of trade and are transitioning to new jobs, not cutting the program. But we need to restore the program also for service workers and for trade with all countries, improvements that were wrongly allowed to lapse at the end of 2013, and we need to extend the entire program for the future.

TPA, TPP, TAA, it might seem like a word scramble, but going forward, TPP, to the American people, will be about jobs and wages. They expect us to work hard to get it right as it is being negotiated, not simply leaving their elected officials with a ''yes'' or a ''no'' vote after TPP is done. We have a lot of work to do, and there is no ducking these issues now.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, people on both sides of the aisle have been working for years to promote American trade. We took big steps when we passed TPA last week and sent it to the President yesterday. Passing TPA, I believe, is an achievement that this Congress should be very proud of. It is going to empower Congress in trade negotiations. It will help America get the best possible trade agreements for American workers, and it will tell the world that the America that they knew and the America that they know is an America that is still willing to lead.

I especially want to thank my colleagues in the House, like Congressman

RON KIND and Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER, for their leadership on this issue. I also want to thank our friends in the Senate, like Senators HATCH and WYDEN. But to pass TPA, we needed a little bit of trust. We promised our Democratic friends, if they stay with us on TPA, that we will follow through with this bill that is before us today, and so we are here today to keep our word.

There are three parts to this bill, all three of which have bipartisan support. First, we reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act, which is in keeping with the agreements that we have made. This program helps workers whose jobs have moved elsewhere to find new opportunities through job training. Traditionally, we have always authorized TPA and TAA, and that is what we are doing here. We have always authorized them together, and that is effectively what we are doing here. We have made some improvements to the program.

Second, we reauthorize a number of trade preferences for developing countries. This bill reauthorizes a number of programs that have broad bipartisan support: AGOA, GSP, and Haiti Hope. These programs lower trade barriers between our country and these developing countries. It is the best example of trade not aid that you can come up with. They grow our trading ties, because when we grow, they grow. This is good policy that has been well respected and supported by both sides of the aisle. Therefore, we have every incentive to get this done.

Third, we make sure that our companies can use our trade remedy laws to address unfair trade practices. This is something that we have worked with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, our colleagues from steel country and the House Steel Caucus, to make sure that our trade laws are actually enforced and, when our trade laws are not being followed, when they are being abused, that we have quick remedies to these situations. All of this legislation will strengthen the American economy. It will strengthen America's credibility on the world stage, and it will strengthen American leadership.

With that, I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), who was an inspiration for AGOA and a major author.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this is a good day for America, and it is a good day for us in the House. There are so many people to thank for making this day possible, not just for the people in developing countries in Africa, but, more importantly, for Americans who recognize, unless we can raise the level of survival in other countries, our country is not fulfilling its moral and economic obligations.

I want to give a special thanks to the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. It is kind of rough listening to him talking about TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, because he knows and I know that, if we wanted each bill passed, we would be concerned not by what the multinationals want, but we would be concerned about the middle class. The middle class you can help by having infrastructure, you can help by having an education, all the things that are not Democratic issues. On this particular AGOA bill, he gave assurances that he thought that this standing alone did not have to get involved in the controversy that people had over the more controversial bill. Like he said, he made his commitment. He kept his commitment. It is things like this that should have younger Members realizing Congress can do it, we can work together, and I thank him publicly for that.

You will be hearing more from other Members in terms of the involvement that they have had. Certainly, Mr. LEVIN from the very, very beginning working with JIM MCDERMOTT, working with Republicans, gave birth to this bill 10 years ago, and his guidance and support and the Ways and Means members have given another year.

KAREN BASS, she is something special. She came to us after serving as California speaker. She grabbed Africa, foster care, and those types of issues that people have left behind, but she managed to make certain that everyone knows that this country cares, and cares deeply.

It is ironic that as we talk about Africa, we are talking about Haiti, we are talking about developing countries, and we also are talking about those workers who, through no fault of their own and because of international and national decisions, have lost their opportunity to have self-esteem and to have a job.

□ 1115

These are issues that we have touched on in this bill. These are issues that go nowhere in terms of how far America has to go in order to be fair and equal and allow us to include real wages, real education, and real opportunity in the pursuit of happiness.

But since we are trying and since there is nothing in this bill that doesn't point us in the right direction, especially on the same day that the United States Supreme Court has recognized that compassion is not restricted to just those who can afford insurance on their own, I just want to thank the leadership in this House, both Republican and Democrats, for the great work that allows me to be a proud Member of this House.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), a distinguished Member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. MEEHAN. I thank the chairman for his leadership in bringing the bipartisan solution to the trade promotion authority.

I stand right now in support of the Trade Preferences Extension Act, which is before us at the moment, and encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting this.

I speak first about Trade Adjustment Assistance, a program I have seen in my own district, where I have watched for workers, when it can be demonstrated that they have had their jobs impacted because of foreign implications, there is a support network in place.

I have seen the value of that program and believe that it is important that we keep the tradition of TAA, but we also need to point out that there have been significant improvements in this program.

There is streamlining. Some of the underperforming programs were not reauthorized. There is accountability. There will now be performance goals for TAA that are aligned with other job training programs.

Consolidation is a third part. It is a process in which we will promote direct services for participants over administrative spending. These are important and critical improvements to a program that already has a history.

I just want to close my comments. There is a very important provision in the Trade Preferences Extension Act dealing with improving antidumping and countervailing duty laws.

As an attorney, I appreciate the importance of creating an accurate record. This allows us to do this in a vitally important area, in the battle against the dumping that is being done that are affecting American jobs at home.

First and most important, it will allow the Department of Commerce to have the ability to create an accurate record. When, in fact, what you have is a foreign party that fails to cooperate with the agency's request, they will be able to impute the information that is necessary to make that case.

In addition, they will be empowered to be able to disregard prices or costs of inputs that foreign producers purchase if the Department of Commerce has reason to believe or suspects that the inputs in question have been subsidized or dumped.

Once again, it creates an accurate record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. MEEHAN. I thank the gentleman.

Because I think this is such a critically important issue to be able to create the kind of record—and it gives the Department of Commerce the kind of discretion to be able to look at the facts and to take recalcitrant countries and hold them accountable by creating what is accurate in the form of the case that we can make to assure that workers here at home are being protected.

These are important and valuable assets in the ability for us to continue to

protect American jobs. It is for those reasons that I strongly encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

I rise in support of the effort today, and I would first acknowledge what my friend, the chairman of the committee, said a moment ago.

At times, trust is in short supply in this institution for a whole host of reasons, but we were given ironclad assurances from the Speaker, from the President, from the chairman, from Senator WYDEN, Senator HATCH, and Leader MCCONNELL that TAA would come back to this floor to be voted on. I think it is important that that has in fact occurred.

To adapt, respond, and grow a 21st century workforce, we need Trade Adjustment Assistance. What we have before us is an improvement over current law. It is not as good as what we had in 2009. I hope that we will be able to build on this and move forward. This program has helped more than 100,000 Americans, including 3,000 of my fellow Oregonians who received job training and financial support.

There will continue to be winners and losers in the global economy, whether we have trade agreements with countries or not, like with pressures from China. It is important that we provide this for our workers. With our vote today, we do so.

I lend my voice saluting Chairman RANGEL for the work that he has done on AGOA. Having this package before us, including new economic opportunities for growing the economies of Africa, Haiti, and other places around the world is critically important. The 10-year extension is an example of how trade can improve these critical living standards.

Finally, I have to acknowledge one little parochial interest in this bipartisan provision I worked on with Mr. REICHERT that creates jobs in the Northwest and helps all outdoor enthusiasts.

Right now, innovative footwear faces an unreasonable reality coming to our borders. Two identical-looking running shoes are imported. One must pay a significantly higher tariff for a single reason: they have a waterproof liner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Coming from the Pacific Northwest, waterproof matters. To be able to end this outmoded tariff code charging extremely high tariffs for no reason at all, I think, is an important step forward.

I look forward to continuing work to fine-tune the tariff regimen that we have, but this is an important one for the people that I represent in the Northwest. I appreciate working with Mr. REICHERT to be able to get this one across the finish line.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, this is a good day for America.

As the previous speaker just said, globalization occurs with or without America engaging in the world. It is important for America to engage in the world, to write the rules of the global balance economy; but whether or not we do or we don't, there will be winners and losers because of globalization.

This bill is called the preferences bill, but it is more than just about preferences. It is about America's leadership in Africa. It is about America's leadership in Haiti. It is about America's leadership at home in providing trade assistance for those workers who did lose their job because of globalization.

My dad was one of them. Long before America engaged in a bilateral trade agreement, my dad lost his job as a steelworker. There are important provisions in this bill written by Chairman RYAN that will help the steel industry. That is really important. My dad was in that industry. He lost his job of 25 years. He benefited from trade assistance.

This is important for American workers. This is also important for those workers who lost their job through no fault of their own and who lost their health care. The health coverage tax credit is renewed in this bill.

This bill almost wasn't, quite frankly. There was a lot of rhetoric on the floor of this House and the floor of the other House about the word of our chairman and the word of our Speaker and about how this wouldn't come up and we can't trust them.

Well, let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, our chairman's word has been gold from day one in this process. Every commitment he has made has come through. Through this process, every commitment our Speaker has made has come to be.

We wouldn't be on the floor today debating this bill and approving this bill in a little while if it weren't for the leadership of Chairman RYAN and the leadership of Speaker BOEHNER. They both deserve our thanks.

Also, the chairman has put together a great staff at the Ways and Means Committee. They should be thanked for their yeoman's work in this process, which has been very difficult but very bipartisan and very bicameral.

Americans want this place to work. Americans want Congress to work together for America's benefit. America's leadership in the world today is a little bit stronger. The light of America is shining a little bit brighter because of the work that this Congress has done on this bill and the other bills, including the customs bill that this Congress has put together and will be sending to the President's desk shortly.

America is going to lead in the global economy because of what we have done today. Americans should be proud that Congress is working again.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this trade preferences bill and the Trade Adjustment Assistance legislation that is before us today.

As the previous speaker pointed out, for us to be in this situation did require a little leap of faith. We weren't sure how we were going to be able to get back after the procedural snafu earlier to have a chance to reconsider Trade Adjustment Assistance, but I give credit, and I thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle, especially my good friend and colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RYAN from Wisconsin; the Speaker; and Senator MCCONNELL.

They promised, as we did move forward trying to give the President trade promotion authority, that they wouldn't pull any punches, that they would allow Trade Adjustment Assistance to come back for consideration, and that is exactly what is happening today.

This has not been an easy process, but this week, the President will get trade promotion authority on his desk so this administration can go forward and try to negotiate the best agreement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership—and even with our European allies—that we can obtain in order to elevate standards and begin to level the playing field so that our workers, our farmers, our businesses have a better chance of competing in that global environment, especially the fastest growing region in the Pacific Rim right now. That is what TPP is all about.

It is also important to recognize the significant work done with the African Growth and Opportunity Act. That is all about our relationship with the countries in Africa and Haiti and where we go here in the 21st century together. It is important that we get this accomplished today, along with the Trade Adjustment Assistance bill.

That is the help we are able to provide displaced workers who are impacted by globalization the job training and education funds so they can reintegrate as quickly as possible in the economy and be full participants of this 21st century global economy.

That would not have happened if the political stars had not aligned. There are areas of common agreement here in this country, as represented in this Congress. Today is proof of that, being able to move forward on a trade agenda that is important for U.S. global leadership, important for our workers, growing the economy and our competitiveness as a Nation.

Again, I commend the leadership shown on both sides of the aisle. We are looking forward to more opportunity to work together in the future. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I add my thanks, Mr. Speaker. Mr. TIBERI left, but he did a lot of work on this legislation. He did yeoman's work on it.

I just want to echo the sentiment that has been said here, which is passing these very challenging bills, doing a number of bills, did require a lot of trust between the two parties, which we have not seen a lot of lately.

I am just very pleased to be a part of this dynamic where we have given each other our words, we have kept our words, and therefore, we are getting this done. As a result of that, I believe that the country is far better off. This policy is good for America, and it restores our leadership in the world.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have heard from both sides of the aisle the term ''winners and losers.''

Our workers who are laid off because of the deals that have been put before this Congress in the last 15 years are not losers. They are the most productive workers in the world. How dare you call them losers.

We are all patting each other on the back here. We are talking about a piece of legislation that is like putting the cart before the horse.

We want to prevent people from being laid off—engineers, laborers, technicians. Our trade deals have been a joke. Not one person has come to this floor to explain to us—and I know that is not the bill we are talking about, that has already been deep-sixed in its past—not one person has come to the floor and told us how these jobs are going to be created through trade.

We are not antitrade. What we want is fair trade deals. How dare you call our workers losers.

□ 1130

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded to direct his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I say that through you to them.

All we have been hearing over the past few months is that we need to grant the President fast-track authority so we can finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership because it will be good for American workers; and yet here we are today, voting on a package to prepare for the opposite: the loss of American jobs because of a trade deal that doesn't put American workers first.

I could support the Trade Adjustment Assistance. You need to help those people who are going to be laid off because of these trade deals that are so great so that they kept their jobs or some other jobs were created. Where are those jobs?

If American workers are going to have the rug pulled out from under them because of trade deals, something should be there to break their fall. The sad reality is that we need TAA. And even the sadder reality is that, despite the great need, this TAA bill before us today is inadequate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. The trade adjustment bill we are voting on today contains a number of flaws. The TAA has been used as a bargaining chip to push the TPA over the finish line. I would prefer that we didn't need a TAA at all. Trade Adjustment Assistance is not preferable to a job.

Secondly, the bill cuts funding for the worker from $575 to $450 million per year. You got your pound of flesh. At a time when trade is expanding, this bill slashes funding for worker training by 20 percent.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee and a member of the Trade Subcommittee, in an effort to try and restore the civil dialogue and bipartisan dialogue we have been having.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership in bringing forward some additional trade legislation today that is very, very important.

I am going to rise in support of H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act, for a couple of key reasons, because there are some key, important provisions that accomplish some very critical goals.

First, it extends those vital trade preferences with both Africa, through the African Growth and Opportunity Act, as well as Haiti. And these investments now, these preference programs, provide vital opportunities for American investment, for U.S. investment, long-term investment. These countries are asking for this investment for the long term.

It helps the African workers, it helps Haitian workers and businesses as they establish themselves as developing countries to making sure they are going to be set for the 21st century global economy.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is more about establishing soft power, strategic alliances, and that is smart power.

Secondly, the legislation renews the Generalized System of Preferences program. Now, this is another very important program that reduces tariffs and, therefore, it reduces prices. It helps consumers here in the United States each and every day and the amount of product that they consume.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, the bill authorizes also the USTR to designate certain travel goods, including purses, briefcases, attache cases, and backpacks, to be eligible under this GSP program, expanding new production opportunities for U.S. businesses. This is a provision that I personally have long supported.

Mr. Speaker, I think what you are seeing over the last few days is the trade agenda moving forward on a very bipartisan basis. Every President since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, regardless of their political background and their party background, has understood and engaged the world with the United States leading in trade.

That tradition is continuing now with this Congress, with this President. We want to see it through. We want to see more opportunity for enhanced trade, because more trade means more jobs and higher-paying jobs for our American workers, especially in manufacturing right here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing this important bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank our ranking member for yielding and for your very critical and tremendous leadership on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of this African Growth and Opportunity Act, let me first say that I am extremely disappointed that AGOA was used as a bargaining chip to pass the unrelated Trade Adjustment Assistance package. AGOA has been a longtime cornerstone of the U.S.-Africa relationship.

And I just have to thank Congressman RANGEL and Congresswoman BASS and members of the Congressional Black Caucus who have done everything they could do, everything possible to keep AGOA a clean bill, without being loaded with non-Africa trade-related issues.

Yet, in spite of these efforts, we are faced with a bill, really, that looks like a Christmas tree. But I will reluctantly vote for this because Africa deserves better. It deserves not to be caught up in the gimmicks of this body. And we will continue to fight for American jobs, American workers, and a TPP that creates jobs in America, economic growth in America, and preserves jobs in America. So this is not over.

On top of the very cynical way that these trade bills have been brought to the floor, the TAA included in this bill is inadequately funded and fails to protect workers who will ultimately be displaced by massive trade agreements like the TPP—and that will happen.

It is unfortunate that we have to pass a TAA to protect workers from job losses that we know will exist which we are told won't exist. So at least we need to, sooner or later, come back with a TAA that is fully funded, at least to the tune of $575 million. We have got to do that.

This TAA fails to cover all workers who will adversely be affected by TPP, and it even excludes public sector employees from eligibility. This is simply wrong. We must do better.

It is time for us to get real and stop putting American workers at risk with trade deals like TPP. We need an adequate trade assistance bill and a trade policy that protects and creates American jobs and economic growth in America.

But, quite frankly, we have to have trade policies that create markets also for African goods, jobs in Africa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. LEE. Also jobs in Africa; healthcare issues like HIV and AIDS; development assistance, such as the Millennium Challenge Account.

So we can't neglect Africa, and we can't allow the continent of Africa to be used as a gimmick in this overall process, which I think was very, very poor and reflects poorly on this body.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, let me yield myself 1 minute to try and clarify some of what was just mentioned.

The reason we are here with this bill and the reason TAA is attached to the AGOA bill is because of the dilatory tactics from the minority a couple of weeks ago.

In keeping with our word, we brought this Trade Preferences bill through the House on its own stand-alone. And so the reason this is happening is not because of the majority, but because of what the minority did with respect to the TAA bill. So I just want to be very clear, that is why we are where we are.

Having said all of that, we are still keeping our agreement going that these bills are going through.

The second point I would like to make is TPP does not exist yet. There is no Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. There are talks. There have been talks for years, and those talks are still ongoing. But we do not have a trade agreement yet. That was why we needed to pass TPA, so that we can get a trade agreement like TPP.

So I would just encourage all Members not to oppose something they have not yet seen, not to prejudge an agreement that does not yet exist.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

It is very important that we recognize 95 percent of the world's consumers. They don't live in this country. They live in other countries. And if we want good jobs that pay more, we need to be able to make and grow things in America and sell them overseas into other markets, other countries.

Since TPA last expired in 2007, there have been 100 trade agreements negotiated and enacted around the world where we were a party to zero, none of them. What that means is other countries are lowering the trade barriers between themselves, and we, America, by not being a part of this, have much higher barriers. So when we want to make something and sell it overseas, it is a lot more expensive for them to buy our products than buying our competitors' products.

There were 48 trade agreements enacted in Asia since 2000 alone. We were a party to two of them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, giving myself an additional 30 seconds, we were a party to two of those agreements and, as a result, our share of trade going into Asia, meaning exports going there from our country, went down 42 percent.

One in five jobs is tied to trade. These jobs pay more. This is about jobs.

So I would simply encourage our Members: Don't take a position on something that doesn't exist yet. Read. See with your own eyes, then form an opinion. But I would argue, it is not in your constituents' interest to simply say what you are for or against before you even see what it is.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, could I ask for the balance of our time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 12¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, the reason for the vote on TAA some days ago was because it was used as a bargaining chip to get votes for TPA. That is what the vote on TAA was all about.

Secondly, I just want to observe, it is said don't judge TPP in opposition before you see it. The problem is so many people are judging in favor of it while it is still being negotiated and labeling it for a certain kind of an agreement while it is still being negotiated.

So, for those who criticize those who are opposed before they see it, I would like to say to them, what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Don't embrace it so fully and so passionately before it is completed, and it is far from being completed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend from Michigan, and I take his word seriously. I think it is good counsel for both sides. Let's wait and see what the fine print has to say before we draw our lines in support or opposition. I take those words to heart.

I must say, I echo the words of Chairman RYAN. We are here today not under some cynical ploy to use the Africa bill to pass Trade Adjustment Assistance, rather, we are here to save Trade Adjustment Assistance because some decided it was worth sacrificing to get at Trade Promotion Authority. That was their political judgment, and they are entitled to it. But they are not entitled to then accuse those of us trying to save that program of cynicism. That is the least thing happening today.

We are all about trying to keep workers who might be displaced, who will be displaced from globalization and, yes, maybe trade, get some training, get some help. That is what this program has done. It is a democratic program, and Chairman RYAN and Speaker BOEHNER have kept their word.

That is what today's vote is also about: redeeming a pledge made to us that we would have a second bite at this apple. And thank God we do, because American workers are going to benefit from it.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), who is so active on these issues.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, ranking member, I will submit for the RECORD a letter from the President of the AFL–CIO, Mr. Richard Trumka.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, June 24, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We are in the final stretch of a long and contentious battle over the congressional grant of trade negotiating authority to the President. Congress has now approved fast track authority, which will give the executive branch the opportunity to negotiate—in secret—as many trade agreements as it can through at least June 30, 2018 (and likely through 2021). Fast track 2015 fails to hold the executive branch accountable for achieving negotiating objectives, addressing the U.S. trade imbalance, or ensuring that trade deals adequately protect good jobs, workers rights, environmental protections, access to affordable medicines, food safety, and other vital protections for working families.

This week, Trade Adjustment Assistance (H.R. 1295 or TAA) will come before the House of Representatives. Unfortunately, and against the advice of many members of Congress, TAA has been packaged with an important and necessary bill to provide trade preferences to sub-Saharan African countries—the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The AFL-CIO has long supported renewal of AGOA, and we will continue to work closely with our African trade union brothers and sisters to ensure that AGOA supports workers' rights and sustainable development.

The AFL-CIO has been clear that this TAA bill is inadequately funded and fails to take into account job disruptions from massive pending trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and others that may be negotiated over the course of the next six years. TAA ought to include a minimum funding level of $575 million and ensure that public sector workers are eligible. Moreover, the funding mechanism for TAA remains highly problematic: despite a fix to one ''pay-for,'' partial funding for TAA is achieved in this bill by cutting $250 million from Medicare payments to hospital kidney dialysis centers. These unrelated program

cuts are unwarranted and compromise the integrity of the program. Furthermore, this violates the principle that Medicare savings should be plowed back into Medicare.

The sequencing and cynical packaging of votes on Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), TAA, and the Customs Enforcement bill have been designed to obfuscate clear policy issues and force members of Congress to make awkward and conflicting votes with inadequate information.

Scheduling a fast track vote without assurance that an adequately funded TAA would ever be enacted or that important trade enforcement measures would be included compounds the existing failures of U.S. trade policy to promote the interests of working families. There is significant uncertainty about what version of the Customs bill might eventually emerge from the conference process, or whether any TAA or Customs bill will eventually reach the President's desk at all.

The changes made to the Customs bill in the House of Representatives eviscerated key enforcement, currency and human rights provisions, while inserting ideologically motivated and counter-productive negotiating objectives with respect to climate change and immigrant rights. Every member of Congress who voted for TPA essentially endorsed this process and signaled a willingness to accept these problematic changes to the fast track objectives, as well as a willingness to enact new job-killing trade agreements without any guarantee that displaced workers will receive adequate training and support.

We deplore the procedural machinations used by the Republican congressional leadership and endorsed by the White House to advance a flawed package of trade bills, absent any clarity or certainty about the final outcomes.

We cannot endorse the current TAA legislation, given its shortcomings. We would oppose TAA in a heartbeat if by doing so we could be assured that we could slow or stop a flawed trade agenda from moving forward, and we are confident that we would have the votes to defeat it. However, in light of the unfortunate passage of TPA by the House and the Senate, we recognize that many members will be reluctant to imperil the passage of AGOA and may reasonably lack confidence that the Republican leadership will give them a chance to vote for an improved TAA bill.

Despite President Obama's repeated assurances that he would not sign TPA without TAA, this no longer seems to be the case. The President has made clear that his only priority in the trade agenda is passage of TPA—regardless of what happens with respect to currency, trade enforcement, trafficking in persons, immigration policy or climate change—let alone assistance to dislocated workers. We do not have confidence that the White House would hold out for a stronger TAA bill if this one were to fail. We therefore urge you to vote your conscience, and we will respect your decision, whatever it may be.

We will redouble our efforts to shape and improve U.S. trade policy. We will vigorously oppose TPP if it continues on its current course—with problematic provisions on investor-state-dispute settlement, procurement and intellectual property rights; without any protections against currency manipulation; with weak rules of origin; and with inadequate protections for workers' and human rights and the environment. We will continue to work closely with Congress and with our allies in the environmental, consumer, human rights, family farm, faith, development, domestic business, immigrants', women's and Internet privacy rights organizations—among many others—to educate and mobilize our members and the American public about what a good trade policy ought to be and why this one falls short.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. TRUMKA,
President.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I submit this letter from Mr. Trumka because I think, perhaps more than anybody else in this whole country, he is in touch with workers and what they need; and labor has been a solid wall of opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Trade Promotion Authority.

The fact is, when people said we don't know what it is and it is an unknown, that is not true. We have, as Members, been able to go and read some of it. Pieces of it have been leaked. And everything I have seen so far has been incredibly disappointing and represents a real threat to the interests of working people, which Mr. Trumka is an expert on.

I mean, I think it is really odd that we think the person who is expert at representing American workers knows so little and workers in general know so little about what is good for them. Maybe we should listen to the people who have borne the brunt of these trade bills in this country, from NAFTA all the way down.

□ 1145

Mr. ELLISON. The fact is, yeah, we do need Trade Adjustment Assistance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ELLISON. If this Trans-Pacific Partnership is anything like the trade bills we have seen so far, we are going to need a way bigger Trade Adjustment Assistance than this represents.

Trade Adjustment Assistance is a good thing, but it is an admission that we are going to have displaced workers. We are saying people will be hurt by this trade bill, and so we are going to try to mitigate some of the harm.

The billions and billions of dollars that will be made by transnational corporations from the Trans-Pacific Partnership—well, let me tell you, we ought to be doing a whole lot more than the meager amount of Trade Adjustment Assistance that is captured in this bill.

I will tell you this, the interests of the American people are what we should be thinking about. I have not heard a word about how this is going to help raise workers' wages. In fact, there is every reason to believe that this will put downward pressure on American workers at a time when we have seen historic income inequality and stagnation of worker pay.

America needs to be the land of opportunity, not the land of economic stagnation caused by trade bills like the one I am afraid we are about to talk about. I am moving on the TPP, and we will fight that.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), who has made the AGOA such an important part of her life here.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, which includes the reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA.

I want to thank Chairman RYAN, who made a commitment at the beginning of the year that we would follow through and we would make sure that AGOA was on the President's desk. I want to thank Ranking Member LEVIN; Chairman TIBERI; and a giant in this House and one of the original authors of AGOA and a mentor to me and many, many others in this house, Mr. CHARLIE RANGEL, for their leadership on AGOA.

I want to thank members of the African Diplomatic Corps, African heads of state, the diaspora, and members of the African civil society for their tireless work on this legislation.

It has been almost a year since President Obama brought together heads of state from 50 African nations for the historic U.S.-Africa leaders summit last August. This summit was the largest event any American President had held with African heads of state, and it was critical in creating the momentum and support that AGOA now enjoys.

Over the next 10 years, Africa will become an even more important part of the world economy with a large youthful population that is increasingly university educated, tech savvy, and entrepreneurial. Without question, it is in the interest of the United States and the countries of Africa that we work toward a stronger and mutually beneficial economic relationship that will stand the test of time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, 95 percent of all consumers are outside the United States. When you look at who exports and who is involved in international trade, over 80 percent of the companies that do this are small- and medium-sized companies. In fact, in the State of Texas, 93 percent of all the companies that export are small- and medium-sized companies.

One point that we understand, if we want to make sure that labor and environmental standards are higher in those countries that we want to deal with, the only way we can do that is by engaging, by talking, and by having a conversation; and that is why these trade agreements are important.

Again, I support a TPA. I support TAA. On TPP, let's reserve our judgment, and let's make a decision on the facts at this time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I have no further speakers. Since I reserve the right to close, I will let the gentleman finish his speakers, and then I will do a quick close.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Ranking Member LEVIN for always standing in the gap with a creative mind for trade but for workers.

Let me acknowledge my colleague from Wisconsin and indicate that those of us who stand here today have several reasons for doing so.

It was in 1997 that I traveled to the continent of Africa and looked at the rich resources of people and product and understood that that developing continent needed a bridge of opportunity. I am not against a bridge of opportunity, and therefore, I vote and support the African Growth and Opportunity Act and those African nations who have extended their hand of friendship to the United States to create jobs.

At the same time, I have to represent some of the most impoverished and one of the largest groups of working people in the South in the State of Texas. Oh, I know that there is benefit. Texas is a State that fits appropriately for benefit in trade, but there are workers that I must be concerned about. I really stand here today to support the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. There is not one district where the Department of Labor does not document the loss of jobs through trade. I would rather be standing here today and saving a monumental amount of jobs for those individuals that may have skills that are not in the chief executive office.

I want to make sure that there is help, and I also want to say let's keep negotiating to get a component that deals with workers. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Act is for workers. It is to give you that cushion; and it is to, in actuality, be able to help over 10,853 workers in my State alone.

We are here today to say keep pushing for an equality in trade negotiations to be able to lift the boats of workers across America, and then we are telling those who may be the beneficiary or the victim of dumping or other tactics that we will not leave here without voting for Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Again, I thank my colleague for realizing we are better together than we are divided. I thank my colleague Mr. LEVIN, who was never wavered from understanding trade, but having the empathy of the working man and woman.

I stand with him, and we are going to move America forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion to Concur to H.R. 1295—Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015.

Put simply, this bill will create jobs, protect workers and help grow our economy.

Specifically, this bill includes three separate provisions:

trade preferences for developing countries;

trade adjustment assistance; and

Leveling the Playing Field.

As it relates to the Trade Preferences Extension Act, this provides developing countries with duty-free access to a range of goods that are otherwise subject to tariffs to help promote commerce and boost our economy.

The bill extends the important African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and trade programs for countries who most need it such as Haiti through 2025.

As it relates to the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), since 1962, the Trade Adjustment Assistance has provided assistance to workers who face challenges due to global competition.

Pre 2009, the only beneficiaries of TAA were manufacturing workers out of work due to American trade, utilizing our free trade agreements to engage our global partners.

However, the 2009 legislation extended the program to cover a larger pool of workers such as those in the service sector, as well as manufacturing workers who lose their jobs due to trade with any country.

Additionally, TAA also extended coverage to public sector workers.

Currently, TAA has increased funding for worker training from $220 million per year to $575 million per year.

This is a step in the right direction.

I support this bill because it provides us with the opportunity to reauthorize TAA to protect workers who may lose their jobs due to trade with other countries.

According to the Department of Labor and Commerce, between 2009 and 2013 over 770 18th Congressional District constituents benefitted from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program.

This means thousands of families were able to put food on their tables.

For instance, 46,521 workers were certified in the state of Texas between 2009 and 2013.

In 2013 alone, over $46,000,000 was allocated to Texas, covering over 10,853 workers in the state of Texas and thousands of families.

Finally, I support this bill because it levels the playing field.

Specifically, it includes improvements to U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws by:

providing the Department of Commerce with more discretion to determine dumping or subsidy rate to apply to an uncooperative foreign company;

requiring the International Trade Commissions (ITC) to consider additional factors when determining whether a domestic industry has been materially injured;

allowing Department of Commerce to use a different calculation methodology to compare domestic and foreign costs if the methodology does not produce an appropriate comparison;

clarifying that the Department of Commerce when approximating costs in a non-market foreign economy can disregard the price of goods that are dumped or benefit from illegal subsidies; and

providing that Department of Commerce with more discretion to reject voluntary respondents, which will allow the Department of Commerce to use its limited resources on other matters.

Job creation, economic security, growing our economy and the protection of workers are the reasons why I support this bill.

For the millions of American lives that will be enriched by this bill that is why I strongly support the Trade Preference Extension Act of 2013.

I support this bill and will keep an eye on it to make sure we make good on our promise to the American people in creating jobs and our commitment to growing our economy.

I urge all members to support the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I commend him for his tremendous, relentless, persistent leadership on behalf of America's workers. They have no better friend than you, Mr. LEVIN, and your pursuit of bigger paychecks for American workers and doing so without exploiting workers in other countries because, as we know, that only leads to stagnation of wages in America. You have understood that so clearly. You have taught us so well. It is an honor to serve with you, Mr. LEVIN.

We come to this place with the Senate passage of TPA and the recognition that there will only be TPA signed. It no longer is connected to TAA. We have a choice today to choose between voting for TAA or not.

If it was the intent of the Republicans in the Senate to attach TAA to AGOA in order to bring down both bills, they are very wrong because we reject that, even though we would have hoped for a better TAA.

When we are talking about trade agreements that involve 40 percent of the world's economy, very large with a very small TAA bill, it is woefully small, but at least it is there. I would have fought for a bigger bill. We are not given that opportunity.

As small as it is, tying it to AGOA and perhaps pulling down AGOA, well, we reject that. People said: Oh, let's just defeat the TAA bill, and AGOA will come up another way.

We didn't trust that. We don't trust that the Republicans would allow AGOA to come up another way. For that reason, from strength, knowing that we could defeat TAA, but at the same time bring down AGOA, it was wisely decided that we should just end this phase now, especially since the idea that both bills or no bill no longer existed.

This is the end of phase one, and to get to this point, there has been a massive mobilization in our country of people of faith; people who are concerned about environment; women's groups; and, of course, our friends in organized labor. There has been a massive mobilization for America's working families.

We all stand ready to go to the next phase, and that next phase is to keep a very sharp, clear, bright light focused on the provisions of the TPP. Most people really didn't realize TPP and TPA, they are different things. Now, they will know.

While I respect the values of the administration, giving their negotiators all of this power, it gives them no reason to come back with anything better than a great trade agreement for

America's working families, and that is what we are here to fight for.

We do not believe in trickle-down economics at home, and we do not believe in trickle-down trade policy where it helps people at the top, entities at the top, and then trickles down maybe to the workers.

We can do this thinking in new, fresh, and entrepreneurial ways. What has bothered me about this debate is it is so stale; it is so old in terms of you are either for globalization and recognize it as a reality and you are for participating in it or you are not—how condescending.

Of course, we know we live in a global economy. Globalization is something that goes well beyond trade. It is about outsourcing and offshoring and all kinds of other ways of taking jobs away from our workforce.

It is something that is a possibility that can be done, and that was my aspiration, that we can do something great, something new, something that benefited all workers, lifted up all workers, not exploiting some in some country to the advantage of multinational corporations and stagnation for American workers' wages.

Everybody says this is better than the status quo. Well, ''better'' is a comparative word. If the status quo is not good, better is less bad. We want something best. Good, better, best, never let it rest until good is better and better is best; that is what we were told in grade school.

Better can also mean less bad. If this is the standard that we are going with, something that is less bad than the status quo, that is simply not good enough.

The possibilities are so great for the world, for the planet, so we must recognize the relationship between trade policy and people's lives. We must recognize the relationship, the interconnection between commerce around climate.

We cannot enable a trade agreement to go forward that degrades the environment, especially now that our awareness is so great about the impact of business decisions on the environment that our people live in, the air that our people breathe, and the rest.

We must recognize that we can only accomplish this with greater transparency than this TPA enables us to have. That is done. We are arguing that.

We are saying now, for TPP, the American people need, expect, and deserve for us to see what the course of this debate is about so that they can weigh in, so that, at the end of the day, the final product will be something that we can rally around or understand why certain decisions had to go a certain way, but not something that is just put there to say, up or down, you either understand we live in a global economy or you do not.

□ 1200

That is, again, Mr. Speaker, condescending and not worthy, really, of the debate, and certainly not worthy of our responsibility to America's working families. So I am excited about the prospect as we go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this legislation today. I wish we had a better TAA, and I certainly do not want to vote against the goal. I want to commend KAREN BASS and CHARLIE RANGEL who worked on this—created it, really—from the start. It is really important, and we should be happy about passing that. This could have been on the President's desk before now if our colleagues in the Senate would have just voted for it and sent it there, except that they decided to hijack it by putting this TAA in there and changing this debate. But that is okay. It is what it is.

We go forward again with a bright spotlight on TPP. If there is any value to what we have been through—which I think has been a great one in terms of mobilization and unifying people about the importance of the stability of America's financial stability and of America's working family—it is that we are ready with judgment and knowledge, again, engaged in the debate as we go forward. We won't be part of the debate because TPA prohibits that. But the American people will want to be engaged in that debate, and we, as their representatives, will have to vote on it at some point.

President Lincoln said that public sentiment is everything. The more the public knows about what is happening, I think, the better the agreement will be. That is my hope, and that is what we will fight for.

So this is another day, a new day to go forward. I congratulate my colleagues who have worked so hard to get us to where we are, but we have much more to do, much bigger possibilities for the American people, and much recognition that it is a whole new world in terms of our understanding of our interconnections. Technology aids us, information helps us, and communication can be our salvation as we share information.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. LEVIN for his leadership and so many people who worked so hard on all of this, and I look forward to possibly a time when we not only have a unified Democratic Caucus but a unified Congress to come together with one thing in mind as we approach the Fourth of July: remembering e pluribus unum—from many, one. We are one country. I don't think partisan politics, Democrats, Republicans, have anything to do with this debate. It is a debate about advancing America's workers and about bigger paychecks for America's workers as we lift up workers throughout the world, as we protect our environment, and as we go into the future.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have had a very rigorous and robust debate on trade. Trade is important to not only the entire country, but certainly it is important to the communities that I represent.

Throughout this process, I have followed the dictates of organized labor, and I have followed the dictates of the people I represent, which means I voted ''no.'' I listened to the logic of the Democratic leader just this moment, and I am going to vote with her. I am going to vote for this legislation today because it is necessary to help those individuals who are going to be displaced, and they need all the help we can provide. I will vote to help them.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we proceed to vote, let me just reflect a bit as someone who has been working on trade issues for some time.

At one point when USTR would not negotiate the trade agreement, Mr. RANGEL and I actually did the negotiating of the Peru free trade agreement with the Peruvian Government. I don't suggest that should be the usual practice.

As I look back on our debate on TPA, I think it has essentially been a prelude, a prelude to more vigorous debate about the contents of TPP. I think this debate has stirred the pot, and now it is important that this Congress—that this Congress—impact the ingredients in the pot and that we do so while the ingredients are being cooked and not simply afterwards, because these ingredients affect the lives of American businesses, American workers, and working families; and when we get it wrong, as sometimes has been true, people get hurt and millions of jobs are lost.

So I think we now have to rededicate ourselves as these negotiations proceed to be an active partner and insist that we be an active partner, that we know what is going on, and that we are able to discuss with the public what is going on. I think that is where we are today.

Within that spirit, Mr. Speaker, I urge that Democrats support this bill on TAA.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to clarify a few things. The reason we are here is because of the defeat of TAA the first time it came through here. That is why this bill is such this way.

The idea that by combining this for the Preferences was somehow a plan in the other body to defeat the two bills, I would just like to remind people that the first Preferences bill passed 97–1 when it passed the Senate. This bill was voice-voted in the Senate yesterday, so if someone was planning on trying to defeat these bills, they sure picked the wrong way to go about doing it.

What is really happening here is a commitment is being honored the second time around to make sure that these bills have passed, and I am

pleased to see that. So I don't read into anything that the other body did other than respond to the fact that TAA was defeated here the first time around. Now we have rebuilt the process, kept the agreements, and here we are passing a bill that the Senate voice-voted yesterday.

Why is this important, Mr. Speaker? These three bills are bipartisan. TAA is offered by Mr. REICHERT, a Republican from Washington. Preferences is something that has gotten near universal support from both sides of the aisle. It is very good policy, and everyone on both sides of the aisle is in favor of TAA.

We also have heard from our manufacturers that they need trade remedy, that when another country and a company from another country violate our trade laws and dump product into our market, we ought to be able to do something about it. So there is a bipartisan acknowledgment on that front, too. That is why this package is here. I anticipate a good vote count.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the reason we are doing this is because we care about workers, we care about American leadership, and we care about jobs. The reason you need trade agreements is to remove those barriers so that the little guy, the small business, can also have access to these foreign markets. That is one of the elements to this debate that I think is missing.

Without trade agreements, big businesses can survive, no problem. Do you know why? Because big businesses can just erect a factory in another country to sell into that other country. It happens all the time. We call it outsourcing. So a big company can set up a factory in another country, hire people in that other country, and ship our jobs over there to make their product there to sell into those markets.

Trade agreements, on the other hand, remove those barriers, make it so that you can build it here and send it over there. That means small businesses can also get engaged in trade. Small businesses can also get access to these markets. So by getting in a trade agreement, we remove those barriers from these countries who say, ''If you want to sell your product in our country, then make it in our country,'' to getting a trade agreement saying, ''We remove these barriers, and we will allow you to make it in your country, America, and send it here.''

Mr. Speaker, that is why we want trade agreements, so we can keep jobs and keep manufacturing in America, make and grow more things here so that we can have more jobs here and send them over there. It is why we have a trade surplus in manufacturing with the countries we had trade agreements with and a big manufacturing deficit with the countries we do not have trade agreements with.

We are pretty generous, Mr. Speaker. We already let a lot of other countries sell their goods into our country. Just go through Walmart, Farm & Fleet, K-Mart, or Shopko, wherever you go buy stuff, and you will see things made in other countries all down the aisle. I bought this shirt I am wearing right now in Kenosha, Wisconsin, at the outlet mall. It was made in Malaysia.

Go to these other countries, and you will not see something similar. You will not see a bunch of American products on their store shelves. Trade agreements say: Hey, wait, that is not fair. Let's make it fair. You give us the same kind of access to your country that we are giving you to our country.

That is what we get with trade agreements; level the playing field, keep it fair, and give us access to the fact that we have one in five jobs in America tied to trade, the fact that these jobs on average pay 18 percent more, so that we can keep that going so that we can have more jobs with higher wages. That is what this is about.

When a worker is displaced—if a worker is displaced—TAA is there to help that person get job training skills and benefits so they can get a new skill to get a new job to keep their life going where they want it to go.

So that is why I expect a good vote here today. I am pleased that we are able to honor the agreements that were made, and I am very pleased that we are sending the signal to the rest of the world that this country is still willing and able to lead.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 338, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the motion will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2200.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 286, nays 138, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 388]

YEAS—286

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Ashford
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Comstock
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Graham
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Harper
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Roskam
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (IA)
Young (IN)

NAYS—138

Abraham
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Becerra
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buchanan
Buck
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Culberson
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Grijalva
Hardy
Harris

Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Lummis
Lynch
Massie
McCaul
McClintock
Meadows
Miller (FL)
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pearce
Perry
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rouzer
Russell
Salmon
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Thompson (MS)
Tipton
Walker
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoho
Young (AK)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—9

Clyburn
Hahn
Kelly (MS)
Napolitano
Payne
Rush
Sanford
Scott (VA)
Scott, David

□ 1238

Messrs. LUCAS, WALKER, COLLINS of New York, STUTZMAN, KNIGHT, MILLER of Florida, CLAWSON of Florida, LONG, and BUCHANAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. SIRES and Mrs. LAWRENCE changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25th, 2015, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 388. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (TAA/AGOA).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25, 2015 I was unavoidably delayed and missed rollcall vote 388. Had I been present I would have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen conflict, I unavoidably missed the following vote on June 25, 2015. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 388, I would have voted "aye" (June 25) (Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1295—Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 388, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CBRN INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2200) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 2, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 389]

YEAS—420

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—2

Lofgren
Massie

NOT VOTING—11

Brady (TX)
Clyburn
Hinojosa
Israel
Kelly (MS)
Maloney, Sean
Napolitano
Payne
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Sanford

□ 1246

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25th, 2015, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 389. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend

the rules and pass H.R. 2200, the CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act, as amended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the afternoon of June 25, 2015, due to my attendance at a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 388—"nay," rollcall No. 389—"yea."

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate reengross the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1735) ''An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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.''.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Without objection, the motion to reconsider the vote on the question of concurring in the matter comprising the remainder of title II of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1314 is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Armed Services, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1735) an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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 a 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. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. THORNBERRY, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, WILSON of South Carolina, LOBIONDO, BISHOP of Utah, TURNER, KLINE, ROGERS of Alabama, SHUSTER, CONAWAY, LAMBORN, WITTMAN, HUNTER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Messrs. HECK of Nevada, WENSTRUP, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Messrs. GARAMENDI, JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will announce the appointment of additional conferees at a subsequent time.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on consideration of the H.R. 2822, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Pursuant to House Resolution 333 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2822.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1254

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring to the floor H.R. 2822, the fiscal year 2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As we begin, I want to personally thank Chairman ROGERS for his leadership and support. Under his guidance, the Committee on Appropriations is again setting the standard for getting things done in the House. The Interior bill is the seventh appropriation bill to come to the floor so far this year.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), my good friend and ranking member, for her partnership and work on this bill.

Finally, I want to thank each of our subcommittee members for their efforts and the collegiality that continues to be the hallmark of our subcommittee's deliberations. Even though we may have differences of opinion within this bill, I greatly appreciate the Members' constructive contribution, and I mean that sincerely.

The committee has made very difficult choices preparing this bill. As reported by the Committee on Appropriations, the fiscal year 2016 Interior and Environment bill is funded at $30.17 billion, which is $246 million below the fiscal year 2015-enacted level and $3 billion below the budget request. We have made a sincere effort to prioritize needs within our 302(b) allocation. I would like to point out a few of the highlights.

Again, this year, the committee has provided robust wildland fire funding. Fire suppression accounts at the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service are fully funded at the 10-year average level. The hazardous fuels program was increased by $75 million to $526 million in the fiscal year 2015-enacted bill, and that increase has been maintained in this bill.

This bill also continues critical investments in Indian Country, a nonpartisan priority of the committee. Building upon the bipartisan work of the former subcommittee chairmen MIKE SIMPSON, Jim Moran, and Norm Dicks, this bill continues to make investments in education, public safety, and health programs in Indian Country.

Overall, funding for the Indian Health Service is increased by $145 million, or 3 percent, while funding for the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Education is increased by $165 million, or 6 percent, from fiscal year 2015 levels, the largest percentage increase in this bill.

This bill provides full funding in fiscal year 2016 for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or PILT, payments. PILT payments are made to 49 of the 50 States as well as to the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The bill provides $2.7 billion for the National Park Service, including more than $60 million in new funding, relating to the centennial of the Park Service.

We have also addressed a number of priorities within the Fish and Wildlife Service accounts. The bill funds popular cost-shared grant programs above the fiscal year 2015-enacted levels. It also provides additional funds to combat international wildlife trafficking, protects fish hatcheries from cuts and closures, continues funding to fight invasive species, and reduces the backlog of species that are recovered but not yet de-listed.

The bill provides $248 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, programs that enjoy broad support—bipartisan support, for that matter. Some Members would prefer more funding; others would prefer less for LWCF. We have attempted to forge a middle ground that begins to return the emphasis of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to its original intent of recreation and State and local acquisitions.

Overall, funding for EPA is reduced by $718 million, or 9 percent, from fiscal year 2015-enacted levels. Members from the Great Lakes region will be pleased to know that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is maintained at the fiscal year 2015-enacted level of $300 million. Rural water technical assistance grants and many categorical grants, including radon grants, are level funded at the fiscal year 2015 enacted level.

Again this year, there is a great deal of concern over the number of regulatory actions being pursued by the EPA in the absence of legislation and without clear congressional direction. For this reason, the bill includes a number of provisions to stop unnecessary and damaging regulatory overreach by the Agency.

Before closing, I would like to address the Endangered Species Act provisions in this bill. We have no interest in interfering with science or letting any species go extinct, but we are concerned about Federal regulatory actions lacking in basic fairness and common sense. The provisions in this bill address problems created by an ESA driven not by science, but by court orders that drain limited Agency resources and force the Department to cut corners to meet arbitrary deadlines. Nowhere is this more evident than with the sage-grouse.

□ 1300

States are rightfully concerned that a listing or unnecessarily restrictive Federal land use plans will jeopardize existing conservation partnerships with States and private landowners. These partnerships are necessary to save both the sagebrush ecosystem and local economies.

So long as sage-grouse are not under imminent threat of extinction, cooperative conservation must be given a chance to work. That is why this bill maintains a 1-year delay on any decision to list sage-grouse along with full funding to implement conservation efforts.

House consideration of this bill is the next step in a long legislative process. I hope over the coming months we will come together, as we do each year, to find common ground. In that spirit, I look forward to continuing to work with Ms. MCCOLLUM and the Members of the House on both sides of the aisle.

In closing, I want to thank the staff on both sides for their hard work on this bill. On the minority side, I would like to thank Rick Healy, Rita Culp, Joe Carlile, as well as Rebecca Taylor. They have played an integral role in the process, and their efforts are very much appreciated.

On the majority side, I would like to thank subcommittee staff Kristin Richmond, Jackie Kilroy, Betsy Bina, Jason Gray, Darren Benjamin, and Dave LesStrang. I would also like to thank Ian Foley, Rebecca Keightley, Alexandra Berenter, and Tricia Evans on my personal staff for their great work.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. It deserves the support of the Members of this body.

I reserve the balance of my time.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT					
Management of Lands and Resources					
Land Resources:					
Soil, water and air management	43,239	46,755	43,239	---	-3,516
Rangeland management	79,000	76,444	79,000	---	+2,556
Grazing administration management	---	16,500	---	---	-16,500
Grazing administration management offsetting collections	---	-16,500	---	---	+16,500
Forestry management	9,838	9,980	9,838	---	-142
Riparian management	21,321	22,784	21,321	---	-1,463
Cultural resources management	15,131	17,206	15,131	---	-2,075
Wild horse and burro management	77,245	80,555	77,245	---	-3,310
Subtotal	245,774	253,724	245,774	---	-7,950
Wildlife and Fisheries:					
Wildlife management	52,338	89,381	89,381	+37,043	---
Fisheries management	12,530	12,685	12,530	---	-155
Subtotal	64,868	102,066	101,911	+37,043	-155
Threatened and endangered species	21,458	21,567	21,458	---	-109
Recreation Management:					
Wilderness management	18,264	18,559	18,264	---	-295
Recreation resources management	48,697	56,851	48,697	---	-8,154
Subtotal	66,961	75,410	66,961	---	-8,449
Energy and Minerals:					
Oil and gas management	53,183	59,671	53,183	---	-6,488
Oil and gas permit processing	32,500	7,125	32,500	---	+25,375
Oil and gas inspection and enforcement	41,126	48,000	41,126	---	-6,874
Subtotal, Oil and gas	126,809	114,796	126,809	---	+12,013
Oil and gas permit processing fees	-32,500	---	-32,500	---	-32,500
Oil and gas inspection and enforcement fees	---	-48,000	---	---	+48,000
Subtotal, offsetting collections	-32,500	-48,000	-32,500	---	+15,500
Coal management	9,595	10,868	9,595	---	-1,273
Other mineral resources	10,586	11,879	10,586	---	-1,293
Renewable energy	29,061	29,356	29,061	---	-295
Subtotal, Energy and Minerals	143,551	118,899	143,551	---	+24,652
Realty and Ownership Management:					
Alaska conveyance	22,000	22,220	22,000	---	-220
Cadastral, lands, and realty management	45,658	51,252	45,658	---	-5,594
Subtotal	67,658	73,472	67,658	---	-5,814
Resource Protection and Maintenance:					
Resource management planning	38,125	59,341	46,125	+8,000	-13,216
Abandoned mine lands	16,987	19,946	16,987	---	-2,959
Resource protection and law enforcement	25,325	25,495	25,325	---	-170
Hazardous materials management	15,612	15,786	15,612	---	-174
Subtotal	96,049	120,568	104,049	+8,000	-16,519

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Transportation and Facilities Maintenance:					
Annual maintenance	38,637	38,942	38,637	---	-305
Deferred maintenance	26,995	31,387	26,995	---	-4,392
Subtotal	65,632	70,329	65,632	---	-4,697
Workforce and Organizational Support:					
Administrative support	47,127	50,942	47,127	---	-3,815
Bureauwide fixed costs	91,010	93,645	91,010	---	-2,635
Information technology management	25,696	25,958	25,696	---	-262
Subtotal	163,833	170,545	163,833	---	-6,712
Challenge cost share	2,413	12,416	2,400	-13	-10,016
National landscape conservation system, base program	31,819	48,470	31,819	---	-16,651
Communication site management	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
Offsetting collections	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	---	---
Subtotal, Management of lands and resources	970,016	1,067,466	1,015,046	+45,030	-52,420
Mining Law Administration:					
Administration	39,696	39,696	39,696	---	---
Offsetting collections	-57,000	-56,000	-56,000	+1,000	---
Subtotal, Mining Law Administration	-17,304	-16,304	-16,304	+1,000	---
Total, Management of Lands and Resources	952,712	1,051,162	998,742	+46,030	-52,420
Land Acquisition					
Land Acquisition	14,226	30,384	2,500	-11,726	-27,884
Emergencies, Hardships, and Inholdings	1,616	1,616	1,000	-616	-616
Acquisition Management	1,904	2,000	1,750	-154	-250
Recreational Access	2,000	4,000	2,000	---	-2,000
Total, Land acquisition	19,746	38,000	7,250	-12,496	-30,750
Oregon and California Grant Lands					
Western Oregon resources management	101,423	95,255	98,248	-3,175	+2,993
Western Oregon information and resource data systems	1,772	1,786	1,772	---	-14
Western Oregon transportation & facilities maintenance	9,517	9,602	9,517	---	-85
Western Oregon construction and acquisition	312	324	312	---	-12
Western Oregon national monument	753	767	753	---	-14
Total, Oregon and California Grant Lands	113,777	107,734	110,602	-3,175	+2,868
Range Improvements					
Current appropriations	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
Service Charges, Deposits, and Forfeitures					
Service charges, deposits, and forfeitures	32,465	31,050	31,050	-1,415	---
Offsetting fees	-32,465	-31,050	-31,050	+1,415	---
Total, Service Charges, Deposits & Forfeitures	---	---	---	---	---
Miscellaneous Trust Funds and Permanent Operating Funds					
Current appropriations	24,000	24,000	24,000	---	---
TOTAL, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	1,120,235	1,230,896	1,150,594	+30,359	-80,302
(Mandatory)	(34,000)	(34,000)	(34,000)	---	---
(Discretionary)	(1,086,235)	(1,196,896)	(1,116,594)	(+30,359)	(-80,302)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE					
Resource Management					
Ecological Services (FY 2015 Structure):					
Endangered species:					
Candidate conservation	12,030	---	---	-12,030	---
Listing and critical habitat	20,515	---	---	-20,515	---
Consultation and HCPs	62,550	---	---	-62,550	---
Recovery	77,916	---	---	-77,916	---
Subtotal	173,011	---	---	-173,011	---
Habitat conservation:					
Partners for fish and wildlife	51,776	---	---	-51,776	---
Conservation planning assistance	33,014	---	---	-33,014	---
Coastal programs	13,184	---	---	-13,184	---
National wetlands inventory	4,861	---	---	-4,861	---
Subtotal	102,835	---	---	-102,835	---
Environmental contaminants	9,557	---	---	-9,557	---
Subtotal, Ecological services	285,403	---	---	-285,403	---
Ecological Services (Proposed FY 2016 Structure):					
Listing	---	23,002	10,257	+10,257	-12,745
Planning and consultation	---	108,943	100,787	+100,787	-8,156
Conservation and restoration	---	126,298	33,396	+33,396	-92,902
(National Wetlands Inventory)	---	(4,871)	(3,721)	(+3,721)	(-1,150)
(Coastal Barrier Resources Act)	---	(1,390)	(1,390)	(+1,390)	---
Recovery	---	---	87,480	+87,480	+87,480
Subtotal	---	258,243	231,920	+231,920	-26,323
Habitat conservation (Proposed FY 2016 Structure):					
Partners for fish and wildlife	---	52,393	51,776	+51,776	-617
Coastal programs	---	13,375	13,375	+13,375	---
Subtotal	---	65,768	65,151	+65,151	-617
National Wildlife Refuge System:					
Wildlife and habitat management	230,343	249,832	230,343	---	-19,489
Visitor services	70,319	76,792	70,819	+500	-5,973
Refuge law enforcement	38,054	38,959	38,959	+905	---
Conservation planning	2,988	2,665	3,023	+35	+358
Refuge maintenance	132,498	139,910	139,910	+7,412	---
Subtotal	474,202	508,158	483,054	+8,852	-25,104
Conservation and Enforcement:					
Migratory bird management	46,468	53,602	47,718	+1,250	-5,884
Law enforcement	66,737	75,423	73,772	+7,035	-1,651
International affairs	14,506	14,696	14,599	+93	-97
Science support	16,985	---	---	-16,985	---
Subtotal	144,696	143,721	136,089	-8,607	-7,632
Fish and Aquatic Conservation:					
National fish hatchery system operations	52,860	53,418	52,418	-442	-1,000
Maintenance and equipment	17,920	19,920	19,920	+2,000	---
Aquatic habitat and species conservation	76,668	74,152	70,250	-6,418	-3,902
Subtotal	147,448	147,490	142,588	-4,860	-4,902
Cooperative landscape conservation	13,988	17,869	6,994	-6,994	-10,875

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Science Support:					
Adaptive science	---	15,159	5,259	+5,259	-9,900
Service science	---	16,516	6,468	+6,468	-10,048
Subtotal	---	31,675	11,727	+11,727	-19,948
General Operations:					
Central office operations	39,985	42,257	39,985	---	-2,272
Regional office operations	37,722	41,798	37,722	---	-4,076
Servicewide bill paying	35,227	35,898	35,177	-50	-721
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	7,022	7,022	7,022	---	---
National Conservation Training Center	21,965	25,830	22,914	+949	-2,916
Health benefits for seasonal employees	---	1,103	---	---	-1,103
Subtotal	141,921	153,908	142,820	+899	-11,088
Total, Resource Management	1,207,658	1,326,832	1,220,343	+12,685	-106,489
Construction					
Construction and rehabilitation:					
Line item construction projects	6,554	11,554	4,011	-2,543	-7,543
Bridge and dam safety programs	1,972	1,972	1,972	---	---
Nationwide engineering service	7,161	7,286	7,161	---	-125
Total, Construction	15,687	20,812	13,144	-2,543	-7,668
Land Acquisition					
Acquisitions	25,071	35,911	9,000	-16,071	-26,911
Emergencies, Hardships, and Inholdings	5,351	5,351	2,500	-2,851	-2,851
Exchanges	1,500	1,500	1,000	-500	-500
Acquisition Management	12,613	12,773	10,000	-2,613	-2,773
Highlands Conservation Act Grants	3,000	---	3,000	---	+3,000
Recreational Access	---	2,500	2,000	+2,000	-500
Land Protection Planning	---	465	---	---	-465
Total, Land Acquisition	47,535	58,500	27,500	-20,035	-31,000
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund					
Grants and administration:					
Conservation grants	10,508	10,508	10,508	---	---
HCP assistance grants	9,485	7,390	9,485	---	+2,095
Administration	2,702	3,002	2,702	---	-300
Subtotal	22,695	20,900	22,695	---	+1,795
Land acquisition:					
Species recovery land acquisition	9,462	11,162	9,462	---	-1,700
HCP land acquisition grants to states	17,938	17,938	17,938	---	---
Subtotal	27,400	29,100	27,400	---	-1,700
Total, Cooperatiave Endangered Species Conservation Fund	50,095	50,000	50,095	---	+95
National Wildlife Refuge Fund					
Payments in lieu of taxes	13,228	---	13,228	---	+13,228
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund					
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	34,145	34,145	35,000	+855	+855
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation					
Migratory bird grants	3,660	4,160	3,660	---	-500

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Multinational Species Conservation Fund					
African elephant conservation fund	1,582	2,582	1,832	+250	-750
Rhinoceros and tiger conservation fund	2,440	3,440	2,690	+250	-750
Asian elephant conservation fund	1,557	1,557	1,557	---	---
Great ape conservation fund	1,975	1,975	1,975	---	---
Marine turtle conservation fund	1,507	1,507	1,507	---	---
Total, Multinational Species Conservation Fund	9,061	11,061	9,561	+500	-1,500
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants					
State wildlife grants (formula)	49,124	51,000	49,124	---	-1,876
State wildlife grants (competitive)	5,487	13,000	5,987	+500	-7,013
Tribal wildlife grants	4,084	6,000	4,084	---	-1,916
Total, State and tribal wildlife grants	58,695	70,000	59,195	+500	-10,805
TOTAL, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	1,439,764	1,575,510	1,431,726	-8,038	-143,784
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE					
Operation of the National Park System					
Park Management:					
Resource stewardship	317,207	351,242	321,483	+4,276	-29,759
Visitor services	242,986	276,935	251,447	+8,461	-25,488
Park protection	348,802	359,034	351,953	+3,151	-7,081
Facility operations and maintenance	697,312	848,944	731,355	+34,043	-117,589
Park support	489,462	498,373	491,569	+2,107	-6,804
Subtotal	2,095,769	2,334,528	2,147,807	+52,038	-186,721
External administrative costs	180,004	180,603	180,004	---	-599
Total, Operation of the National Park System	2,275,773	2,515,131	2,327,811	+52,038	-187,320
National Recreation and Preservation					
Recreation programs	589	858	589	---	-269
Natural programs	13,560	13,743	13,560	---	-183
Cultural programs	24,562	25,502	24,562	---	-940
International park affairs	1,648	1,667	1,648	---	-19
Environmental and compliance review	433	440	433	---	-7
Grant administration	2,004	2,037	2,004	---	-33
Heritage Partnership Programs	20,321	9,952	19,671	-650	+9,719
Total, National Recreation and Preservation	63,117	54,199	62,467	-650	+8,268
Historic Preservation Fund					
State historic preservation offices	46,925	46,925	46,925	---	---
Tribal grants	8,985	9,985	8,985	---	-1,000
Competitive grants	500	30,500	5,000	+4,500	-25,500
New Grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities	---	2,500	---	---	-2,500
Total, Historic Preservation Fund	56,410	89,910	60,910	+4,500	-29,000
Construction					
General Program:					
Line item construction and maintenance	61,678	153,344	62,894	+1,216	-90,450
Emergency and unscheduled	3,855	3,855	3,855	---	---
Housing	2,200	2,200	2,200	---	---
Dam safety	1,248	1,248	1,248	---	---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Equipment replacement	13,500	13,500	13,500	---	---
Planning, construction	7,266	16,520	7,266	---	-9,254
Construction program management	36,771	48,330	36,771	---	-11,559
General management plans	11,821	11,970	11,821	---	-149
Total, Construction	138,339	250,967	139,555	+1,216	-111,412
Land and Water Conservation Fund (rescission of contract authority)	-28,000	-30,000	-28,000	---	+2,000
Land Acquisition and State Assistance					
Assistance to States:					
State conservation grants (formula)	42,000	45,000	42,000	---	-3,000
State conservation grants (competitive)	3,000	5,000	3,000	---	-2,000
Administrative expenses	3,117	3,161	3,117	---	-44
Subtotal	48,117	53,161	48,117	---	-5,044
National Park Service:					
Acquisitions	23,475	34,818	9,000	-14,475	-25,818
Recreational Access	---	2,000	2,000	+2,000	---
American Battlefield Protection Program	8,986	8,986	9,000	+14	+14
Emergencies, Hardships, Relocations, and Deficiencies	3,928	3,928	2,500	-1,428	-1,428
Acquisition Management	9,526	9,679	9,250	-276	-429
Inholdings, Donations, and Exchanges	4,928	4,928	4,500	-428	-428
Subtotal	50,843	64,339	36,250	-14,593	-28,089
Total, Land Acquisition and State Assistance	98,960	117,500	84,367	-14,593	-33,133
Centennial Challenge	10,000	50,000	20,000	+10,000	-30,000
TOTAL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	2,614,599	3,047,707	2,667,110	+52,511	-380,597
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY					
Surveys, Investigations, and Research					
Ecosystems:					
Status and trends	20,473	22,178	20,473	---	-1,705
Fisheries: Aquatic and endangered resources	20,886	25,422	19,886	-1,000	-5,536
Wildlife: Terrestrial and endangered resources	45,257	46,671	44,257	-1,000	-2,414
Terrestrial, Freshwater and marine environments	36,224	42,755	35,224	-1,000	-7,531
Invasive species	16,830	19,281	16,830	---	-2,451
Cooperative research units	17,371	19,992	17,371	---	-2,621
Total, Ecosystems	157,041	176,299	154,041	-3,000	-22,258
Climate and Land Use Change:					
Climate variability:					
Climate science centers	26,735	37,403	26,435	-300	-10,968
Climate research and development	21,495	26,656	20,495	-1,000	-6,161
Carbon sequestration	9,359	18,513	9,359	---	-9,154
Subtotal	57,589	82,572	56,289	-1,300	-26,283
Land Use Change:					
Land remote sensing	67,894	97,531	72,194	+4,300	-25,337
Land change science	10,492	11,725	10,492	---	-1,233
Subtotal	78,386	109,256	82,686	+4,300	-26,570
Total, Climate and Land Use Change	135,975	191,828	138,975	+3,000	-52,853

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health:					
Minerals resources	45,931	47,717	45,931	---	-1,786
Energy resources	24,895	28,068	24,895	---	-3,173
Contaminant biology	10,197	12,070	10,197	---	-1,873
Toxic substances hydrology	11,248	15,447	11,248	---	-4,199
Total, Energy, Minerals, and Env Health	92,271	103,302	92,271	---	-11,031
Natural Hazards:					
Earthquake hazards	59,503	57,952	59,503	---	+1,551
Volcano hazards	25,121	25,709	25,121	---	-588
Landslide hazards	3,485	4,039	3,485	---	-554
Global seismographic network	4,853	9,799	4,853	---	-4,946
Geomagnetism	1,888	3,624	1,888	---	-1,736
Coastal and marine geology	40,336	45,230	40,336	---	-4,894
Total, Natural Hazards	135,186	146,353	135,186	---	-11,167
Water Resources:					
Groundwater resources	11,348	---	---	-11,348	---
National water quality assessment	59,459	---	---	-59,459	---
National streamflow information program	34,901	---	---	-34,901	---
Hydrologic research and development	11,215	---	---	-11,215	---
Hydrologic networks and analysis	30,134	---	---	-30,134	---
Cooperative Water Program	57,710	---	---	-57,710	---
Water Availability and Use Science Program	---	46,758	40,919	+40,919	-5,839
Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program	---	73,533	69,707	+69,707	-3,826
National Water Quality Program	---	96,087	94,141	+94,141	-1,946
Water Resources Research Act Program	6,500	6,500	6,500	---	---
Total, Water Resources	211,267	222,878	211,267	---	-11,611
Core Science Systems:					
Science, synthesis, analysis, and research	24,299	25,897	24,299	---	-1,598
National cooperative geological mapping	24,397	25,339	24,397	---	-942
National Geospatial Program	58,532	75,731	58,532	---	-17,199
Total, Core Science Systems	107,228	126,967	107,228	---	-19,739
Science Support:					
Administration and Management	84,192	90,599	84,192	---	-6,407
Information Services	21,419	22,229	21,419	---	-810
Total, Science Support	105,611	112,828	105,611	---	-7,217
Facilities:					
Rental payments and operations & maintenance	93,141	107,047	93,141	---	-13,906
Deferred maintenance and capital improvement	7,280	7,280	7,280	---	---
Total, Facilities	100,421	114,327	100,421	---	-13,906
TOTAL, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY	1,045,000	1,194,782	1,045,000	---	-149,782
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT					
Ocean Energy Management					
Renewable energy	23,104	24,278	23,104	---	-1,174
Conventional energy	49,633	59,869	49,633	---	-10,236
Environmental assessment	65,712	68,045	63,212	-2,500	-4,833
General support services	15,002	---	15,002	---	+15,002
Executive direction	16,319	18,665	16,319	---	-2,346
Subtotal	169,770	170,857	167,270	-2,500	-3,587

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Offsetting rental receipts	-94,868	-92,961	-92,961	+1,907	---
Cost recovery fees	-2,480	-3,661	-3,661	-1,181	---
Subtotal, offsetting collections	-97,348	-96,622	-96,622	+726	---
TOTAL, BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT	72,422	74,235	70,648	-1,774	-3,587
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT					
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement					
Environmental enforcement	8,314	---	8,314	---	+8,314
Operations, safety and regulation	133,597	151,768	133,094	-503	-18,674
Administrative operations	15,676	18,268	15,676	---	-2,592
General support services	13,912	---	13,912	---	+13,912
Executive direction	18,227	19,736	17,358	-869	-2,378
Subtotal	189,726	189,772	188,354	-1,372	-1,418
Offsetting rental receipts	-50,412	-49,399	-49,399	+1,013	---
Inspection fees	-65,000	-65,000	-59,000	+6,000	+6,000
Cost recovery fees	-8,167	-7,808	-7,808	+359	---
Subtotal, offsetting collections	-123,579	-122,207	-116,207	+7,372	+6,000
Total, Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement	66,147	67,565	72,147	+6,000	+4,582
Oil Spill Research					
Oil spill research	14,899	14,899	14,899	---	---
TOTAL, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT	81,046	82,464	87,046	+6,000	+4,582
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT					
Regulation and Technology					
Environmental protection	91,832	91,880	91,832	---	-48
Permit fees	40	1,900	40	---	-1,860
Offsetting collections	-40	-1,900	-40	---	+1,860
Technology development and transfer	14,455	20,086	15,205	+750	-4,881
Financial management	505	711	505	---	-206
Executive direction	15,921	15,711	15,711	-210	---
Civil penalties (indefinite)	100	100	100	---	---
Subtotal	122,813	128,488	123,353	+540	-5,135
Civil penalties (offsetting collections)	-100	-100	-100	---	---
Total, Regulation and Technology	122,713	128,388	123,253	+540	-5,135
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund					
Environmental restoration	9,480	11,431	9,480	---	-1,951
Technology development and transfer	3,544	6,283	3,544	---	-2,739
Financial management	6,396	6,477	6,396	---	-81

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Executive direction	7,979	7,883	7,883	-96	---
State grants	---	---	30,000	+30,000	+30,000
Total, Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund	27,399	32,074	57,303	+29,904	+25,229
TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT	150,112	160,462	180,556	+30,444	+20,094
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION					
Operation of Indian Programs					
Tribal Budget System					
Tribal Government:					
Aid to tribal government	24,614	24,833	24,614	---	-219
Consolidated tribal government program	76,348	77,088	76,348	---	-740
Self governance compacts	158,767	162,321	158,767	---	-3,554
Contract support	246,000	272,000	272,000	+26,000	---
Indian self determination fund	5,000	5,000	5,000	---	---
New tribes	463	464	463	---	-1
Small and needy tribes	1,845	3,095	1,845	---	-1,250
Road maintenance	26,461	26,693	26,693	+232	---
Tribal government program oversight	8,181	12,273	8,181	---	-4,092
Subtotal	547,679	583,767	573,911	+26,232	-9,856
Human Services:					
Social services	40,871	47,179	41,871	+1,000	-5,308
Welfare assistance	74,809	74,791	74,809	---	+18
Indian child welfare act	15,433	15,641	15,433	---	-208
Housing improvement program	8,009	8,021	8,009	---	-12
Human services tribal design	407	246	407	---	+161
Human services program oversight	3,105	3,126	3,105	---	-21
Subtotal	142,634	149,004	143,634	+1,000	-5,370
Trust - Natural Resources Management:					
Natural resources, general	5,089	8,168	5,089	---	-3,079
Irrigation operations and maintenance	11,359	12,898	11,359	---	-1,539
Rights protection implementation	35,420	40,138	35,420	---	-4,718
Tribal management/development program	9,244	14,263	9,244	---	-5,019
Endangered species	2,675	3,684	2,675	---	-1,009
Cooperative landscape conservation	9,948	30,355	9,948	---	-20,407
Integrated resource information program	2,996	3,996	2,996	---	-1,000
Agriculture and range	30,494	30,751	30,494	---	-257
Forestry	47,735	51,914	47,735	---	-4,179
Water resources	10,297	14,917	10,297	---	-4,620
Fish, wildlife and parks	13,577	15,646	13,577	---	-2,069
Resource management program oversight	6,018	6,066	6,018	---	-48
Subtotal	184,852	232,796	184,852	---	-47,944
Trust - Real Estate Services	127,002	143,686	125,817	-1,185	-17,869
Education:					
Elementary and secondary programs (forward funded)	536,897	565,517	550,034	+13,137	-15,483
(Tribal grant support costs)	(62,395)	(75,335)	(75,335)	(+12,940)	---
Post secondary programs (forward funded)	69,793	69,793	69,793	---	---
Subtotal, forward funded education	606,690	635,310	619,827	+13,137	-15,483

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Elementary and secondary programs	119,195	142,361	139,195	+20,000	-3,166
Post secondary programs	64,182	69,412	64,182	---	-5,230
Education management	20,464	57,381	30,956	+10,492	-26,425
Subtotal, Education	810,531	904,464	854,160	+43,629	-50,304
Public Safety and Justice:					
Law enforcement	328,296	334,976	331,304	+3,008	-3,672
Tribal courts	23,280	28,173	24,780	+1,500	-3,393
Fire protection	1,274	1,274	1,274	---	---
Subtotal	352,850	364,423	357,358	+4,508	-7,065
Community and economic development	35,996	40,619	40,505	+4,509	-114
Executive direction and administrative services	227,692	241,832	225,433	-2,259	-16,399
(housing improvement, road maint, etc. in bill lang)	(48,553)	(46,663)	(48,785)	(+232)	(+2,122)
Total, Operation of Indian Programs	2,429,236	2,660,591	2,505,670	+76,434	-154,921
Construction					
Education	74,501	133,245	133,245	+58,744	---
Public safety and justice	11,306	11,306	11,306	---	---
Resources management	34,427	34,488	34,427	---	-61
General administration	8,642	9,934	8,642	---	-1,292
Total, Construction	128,876	188,973	187,620	+58,744	-1,353
Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians					
White Earth Land Settlement Act (Admin) (P.L.99-264)	625	625	625	---	---
Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Fund (P.L.96-420)(P.L.100-580)	250	250	250	---	---
Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement (P.L.101-618)	142	142	142	---	---
Navajo Water Resources Development Trust Fund (P.L.111-11)	4,000	4,000	4,000	---	---
Navajo Gallup Water Settlement (P.L.111-11)	9,000	17,800	15,556	+6,556	-2,244
Taos Pueblo Water Rights Settlement (P.L.111-291)	15,392	29,212	29,212	+13,820	---
Aamodt Settlement (P.L.111-291)	6,246	15,627	15,627	+9,381	---
Total, Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians	35,655	67,656	65,412	+29,757	-2,244
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account					
Indian guaranteed loan program account	7,731	7,748	7,731	---	-17
TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND INDIAN EDUCATION	2,601,498	2,924,968	2,766,433	+164,935	-158,535
DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES					
Office of the Secretary					
Leadership and administration	122,885	128,256	119,013	-3,872	-9,243
Management services	20,747	20,966	20,747	---	-219
New Coastal Resilience Fund	---	50,000	---	---	-50,000
Office of Natural Resources Revenue	121,631	128,717	125,519	+3,888	-3,198
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	---	---	452,000	+452,000	+452,000
Total, Office of the Secretary	265,263	327,939	717,279	+452,016	+389,340

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Insular Affairs					
Assistance to Territories					
Territorial Assistance					
Office of Insular Affairs	9,448	10,184	9,448	---	-736
Technical assistance	14,504	24,239	14,504	---	-9,735
Maintenance assistance fund	1,081	5,000	1,081	---	-3,919
Brown tree snake	3,500	3,000	3,500	---	+500
Coral reef initiative	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Empowering Insular Communities	2,971	4,421	2,971	---	-1,450
Compact impact	3,000	1,344	3,000	---	+1,656
Subtotal, Territorial Assistance	35,504	49,188	35,504	---	-13,684
American Samoa operations grants	22,752	22,752	22,752	---	---
Northern Marianas covenant grants	27,720	27,720	27,720	---	---
Total, Assistance to Territories	85,976	99,660	85,976	---	-13,684
(discretionary)	(58,256)	(71,940)	(58,256)	---	(-13,684)
(mandatory)	(27,720)	(27,720)	(27,720)	---	---
Compact of Free Association					
Compact of Free Association - Federal services	2,818	2,818	2,818	---	---
Enewetak support	500	500	500	---	---
Compact payments, Palau	13,147	---	---	-13,147	---
Total, Compact of Free Association	16,465	3,318	3,318	-13,147	---
Total, Insular Affairs	102,441	102,978	89,294	-13,147	-13,684
(discretionary)	(74,721)	(75,258)	(61,574)	(-13,147)	(-13,684)
(mandatory)	(27,720)	(27,720)	(27,720)	---	---
Office of the Solicitor					
Legal services	59,091	63,167	58,500	-591	-4,667
General administration	4,971	4,982	4,921	-50	-61
Ethics	1,738	1,739	1,721	-17	-18
Total, Office of the Solicitor	65,800	69,888	65,142	-658	-4,746
Office of Inspector General					
Audit and investigations	37,538	39,503	37,538	---	-1,965
Administrative services and information management	12,509	12,721	12,509	---	-212
Total, Office of Inspector General	50,047	52,224	50,047	---	-2,177
Office of Special Trustee for American Indians					
Federal Trust Programs					
Program operations, support, and improvements	136,998	140,938	136,998	---	-3,940
(Office of Historical Accounting)	(23,061)	(22,120)	(22,120)	(-941)	---
Executive direction	2,031	2,040	2,031	---	-9
Total, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians	139,029	142,978	139,029	---	-3,949
TOTAL, DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES	622,580	696,007	1,060,791	+438,211	+364,784
(Discretionary)	(594,860)	(668,287)	(1,033,071)	(+438,211)	(+364,784)
(Mandatory)	(27,720)	(27,720)	(27,720)	---	---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS					
Wildland Fire Management					
Fire Operations:					
Preparedness	318,970	323,685	318,970	---	-4,715
Fire suppression operations	291,657	268,571	291,673	+16	+23,102
Subtotal, Fire operations	610,627	592,256	610,643	+16	+18,387
Other Operations:					
Fuels Management	164,000	148,279	164,000	---	+15,721
Resilient Landscapes	---	30,000	---	---	-30,000
Burned area rehabilitation	18,035	18,970	18,035	---	-935
Fire facilities	6,127	10,000	6,127	---	-3,873
Joint fire science	5,990	5,990	5,990	---	---
Subtotal, Other operations	194,152	213,239	194,152	---	-19,087
Subtotal, Wildland fire management	804,779	805,495	804,795	+16	-700
Total, Wildland fire management	804,779	805,495	804,795	+16	-700
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account					
FLAME wildfire suppression reserve account	92,000	---	92,000	---	+92,000
Total, all wildland fire accounts	896,779	805,495	896,795	+16	+91,300
Suppression Cap Adjustment	---	200,000	---	---	-200,000
Total, Wildland Fire Management with cap adjustment	896,779	1,005,495	896,795	+16	-108,700
Central Hazardous Materials Fund					
Central hazardous materials fund	10,010	10,011	10,010	---	-1
Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund					
Damage assessments	2,500	2,063	2,475	-25	+412
Program management	2,192	2,466	2,170	-22	-296
Restoration support	2,075	3,607	2,054	-21	-1,553
Oil Spill Preparedness	1,000	1,100	990	-10	-110
Total, Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund	7,767	9,236	7,689	-78	-1,547
Working Capital Fund	57,100	74,462	56,529	-571	-17,933
TOTAL, DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS	971,656	1,099,204	971,023	-633	-128,181
Appropriations	(971,656)	(899,204)	(971,023)	(-633)	(+71,819)
Disaster Relief cap adjustment	---	(200,000)	---	---	(-200,000)
TOTAL, TITLE I, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	10,718,912	12,086,235	11,430,927	+712,015	-655,308
Appropriations	(10,746,912)	(12,116,235)	(11,458,927)	(+712,015)	(-657,308)
Rescissions of contract authority	(-28,000)	(-30,000)	(-28,000)	---	(+2,000)
(Mandatory)	(61,720)	(61,720)	(61,720)	---	---
(Discretionary without cap adjustment)	(10,657,192)	(11,824,515)	(11,369,207)	(+712,015)	(-455,308)
(Disaster Relief cap adjustment)	---	(200,000)	---	---	(-200,000)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE II - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY					
Science and Technology					
Clean Air and Climate	116,541	124,844	107,738	-8,803	-17,106
(Climate protection program)	(8,018)	(8,124)	(8,018)	---	(-106)
Enforcement	13,669	14,398	13,125	-544	-1,273
Homeland security	37,122	38,150	37,122	---	-1,028
Indoor air and Radiation	5,997	6,615	5,997	---	-618
IT / Data management / Security	3,089	3,196	3,089	---	-107
Operations and administration	68,339	79,170	68,339	---	-10,831
Pesticide licensing	6,027	7,691	6,027	---	-1,664
Research: Air, climate and energy	91,906	100,342	88,282	-3,624	-12,060
Research: Chemical safety and sustainability	126,930	140,722	126,930	---	-13,792
(Research: Computational toxicology)	(21,409)	(33,775)	(21,409)	---	(-12,366)
(Research: Endocrine disruptor)	(16,253)	(15,417)	(16,253)	---	(+836)
Research: National priorities	4,100	---	7,100	+3,000	+7,100
Research: Safe and sustainable water resources	107,434	111,022	102,576	-4,858	-8,446
Research: Sustainable and healthy communities	149,975	139,172	135,074	-14,901	-4,098
Water: Human health protection	3,519	3,766	3,519	---	-247
Total, Science and Technology	734,648	769,088	704,918	-29,730	-64,170
(by transfer from Superfund)	(18,850)	(16,217)	(16,217)	(-2,633)	---
Environmental Programs and Management					
Brownfields	25,593	29,599	23,680	-1,913	-5,919
Clean air and climate	273,108	336,907	247,472	-25,636	-89,435
(Climate protection program)	(95,436)	(109,625)	(85,160)	(-10,276)	(-24,465)
Compliance	101,665	122,424	100,048	-1,617	-22,376
Enforcement	240,637	269,256	226,656	-13,981	-42,600
(Environmental justice)	(6,737)	(13,971)	(6,737)	---	(-7,234)
Environmental protection: National priorities	12,700	---	12,700	---	+12,700
Geographic programs:					
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	300,000	250,000	300,000	---	+50,000
Chesapeake Bay	73,000	70,000	60,000	-13,000	-10,000
San Francisco Bay	4,819	3,988	3,988	-831	---
Puget Sound	28,000	29,998	28,000	---	-1,998
Long Island Sound	3,940	2,893	3,940	---	+1,047
Gulf of Mexico	4,482	3,908	3,908	-574	---
South Florida	1,704	1,340	1,340	-364	---
Lake Champlain	4,399	1,399	1,399	-3,000	---
Lake Pontchartrain	948	948	948	---	---
Southern New England Estuaries	5,000	5,000	---	-5,000	-5,000
Other geographic activities	1,445	939	---	-1,445	-939
Subtotal	427,737	370,413	403,523	-24,214	+33,110
Homeland security	10,195	10,274	10,195	---	-79
Indoor air and radiation	27,637	30,277	29,237	+1,600	-1,040
Information exchange / Outreach	126,538	155,678	109,010	-17,528	-46,668
(Children and other sensitive populations: Agency coordination)	(6,548)	(8,035)	(6,548)	---	(-1,487)
(Environmental education)	(8,702)	(10,969)	---	(-8,702)	(-10,969)
International programs	15,400	16,561	14,100	-1,300	-2,461
IT / Data management / Security	90,536	103,061	85,773	-4,763	-17,288
Legal/science/regulatory/economic review	111,414	138,786	90,503	-20,911	-48,283

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Operations and administration	482,751	505,402	480,482	-2,269	-24,920
Pesticide licensing	102,363	111,765	102,363	---	-9,402
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	104,877	111,242	104,877	---	-6,365
Toxics risk review and prevention	92,521	87,705	89,521	-3,000	+1,816
(Endocrine disruptors)	(7,553)	(4,259)	(7,553)	---	(+3,294)
Underground storage tanks (LUST / UST)	11,295	11,657	11,295	---	-362
Water: Ecosystems:					
National estuary program / Coastal waterways	26,723	27,310	25,098	-1,625	-2,212
Wetlands	21,065	23,334	19,882	-1,183	-3,452
Subtotal	47,788	50,644	44,980	-2,808	-5,664
Water: Human health protection	98,507	125,768	93,324	-5,183	-32,444
Water quality protection	210,417	254,299	192,550	-17,867	-61,749
Total, Environmental Programs and Management	2,613,679	2,841,718	2,472,289	-141,390	-369,429
Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund					
E-Manifest System Fund	3,674	7,368	---	-3,674	-7,368
Office of Inspector General					
Audits, evaluations, and investigations	41,489	50,099	40,000	-1,489	-10,099
(by transfer from Superfund)	(9,939)	(8,459)	(8,459)	(-1,480)	---
Buildings and Facilities					
Homeland security: Protection of EPA personnel and infrastructure	6,676	7,875	6,676	---	-1,199
Operations and administration	35,641	43,632	27,791	-7,850	-15,841
Total, Buildings and Facilities	42,317	51,507	34,467	-7,850	-17,040
Hazardous Substance Superfund					
Audits, evaluations, and investigations	9,939	8,459	8,459	-1,480	---
Compliance	995	1,067	995	---	-72
Enforcement	166,375	173,263	160,375	-6,000	-12,888
Homeland security	36,362	33,767	33,767	-2,595	---
Indoor air and radiation	1,985	2,180	1,985	---	-195
Information exchange / Outreach	1,328	1,366	1,328	---	-38
IT /data management/security	14,485	15,642	14,485	---	-1,157
Legal/science/regulatory/economic review	1,253	1,241	1,241	-12	---
Operations and administration	128,105	137,340	125,525	-2,580	-11,815
Research: Chemical safety and sustainability	2,843	2,831	2,831	-12	---
Research: Sustainable communities	14,032	12,220	12,220	-1,812	---
Superfund cleanup:					
Superfund: Emergency response and removal	181,306	190,732	181,306	---	-9,426
Superfund: Emergency preparedness	7,636	7,843	7,636	---	-207
Superfund: Federal facilities	21,125	26,265	21,125	---	-5,140
Superfund: Remedial	501,000	539,618	515,491	+14,491	-24,127
Subtotal	711,067	764,458	725,558	+14,491	-38,900
Total, Hazardous Substance Superfund	1,088,769	1,153,834	1,088,769	---	-65,065
(transfer out to Inspector General)	(-9,939)	(-8,459)	(-8,459)	(+1,480)	---
(transfer out to Science and Technology)	(-18,850)	(-16,217)	(-16,217)	(+2,633)	---
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund (LUST)					
Enforcement	620	627	620	---	-7
Operations and administration	1,352	1,681	1,352	---	-329
Research: Sustainable communities	320	348	320	---	-28

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	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Underground storage tanks (LUST / UST)	89,649	92,670	89,649	---	-3,021
(LUST/UST)	(9,240)	(9,409)	(9,240)	---	(-169)
(LUST cooperative agreements)	(55,040)	(54,402)	(55,040)	---	(+638)
(Energy Policy Act grants)	(25,369)	(28,859)	(25,369)	---	(-3,490)
Total, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund	91,941	95,326	91,941	---	-3,385
Inland Oil Spill Program					
Compliance	139	155	139	---	-16
Enforcement	2,413	2,424	2,413	---	-11
Oil	14,409	18,524	14,409	---	-4,115
Operations and administration	584	1,762	498	-86	-1,264
Research: Sustainable communities	664	513	485	-179	-28
Total, Inland Oil Spill Program	18,209	23,378	17,944	-265	-5,434
State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)					
Alaska Native villages	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
Brownfields projects	80,000	110,000	75,000	-5,000	-35,000
Clean water state revolving fund (SRF)	1,448,887	1,116,000	1,018,000	-430,887	-98,000
Diesel emissions grants	30,000	10,000	50,000	+20,000	+40,000
Drinking water state revolving fund (SRF)	906,896	1,186,000	757,000	-149,896	-429,000
Mexico border	5,000	5,000	5,000	---	---
Targeted airshed grants	10,000	---	20,000	+10,000	+20,000
Subtotal, Infrastructure assistance grants	2,490,783	2,437,000	1,935,000	-555,783	-502,000
Categorical grants:					
Beaches protection	9,549	---	---	-9,549	---
Brownfields	47,745	49,500	47,745	---	-1,755
Environmental information	9,646	25,346	9,646	---	-15,700
Hazardous waste financial assistance	99,693	99,693	99,693	---	---
Lead	14,049	14,049	14,049	---	---
Nonpoint source (Sec. 319)	159,252	164,915	159,252	---	-5,663
Pesticides enforcement	18,050	18,050	18,050	---	---
Pesticides program implementation	12,701	13,201	12,701	---	-500
Pollution control (Sec. 106)	230,806	249,164	230,806	---	-18,358
(Water quality monitoring)	(17,848)	(18,500)	(17,848)	---	(-652)
Pollution prevention	4,765	4,765	4,765	---	---
Public water system supervision	101,963	109,700	101,963	---	-7,737
Radon	8,051	---	8,051	---	+8,051
State and local air quality management	228,219	268,229	228,219	---	-40,010
Toxics substances compliance	4,919	4,919	4,919	---	---
Tribal air quality management	12,829	12,829	12,829	---	---
Tribal general assistance program	65,476	96,375	65,476	---	-30,899
Underground injection control (UIC)	10,506	10,506	10,506	---	---
Underground storage tanks	1,498	1,498	1,498	---	---
Wetlands program development	14,661	19,661	14,661	---	-5,000
Subtotal, Categorical grants	1,054,378	1,162,400	1,044,829	-9,549	-117,571
Total, State and Tribal Assistance Grants	3,545,161	3,599,400	2,979,829	-565,332	-619,571
Subtotal, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	8,179,887	8,591,718	7,430,157	-749,730	-1,161,561
Administrative Provisions					
Rescission	-40,000	---	-8,000	+32,000	-8,000
TOTAL, TITLE II, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	8,139,887	8,591,718	7,422,157	-717,730	-1,169,561
Appropriations	(8,179,887)	(8,591,718)	(7,430,157)	(-749,730)	(-1,161,561)
Rescissions	(-40,000)	---	(-8,000)	(+32,000)	(-8,000)
(By transfer)	(28,789)	(24,676)	(24,676)	(-4,113)	---
(Transfer out)	(-28,789)	(-24,676)	(-24,676)	(+4,113)	---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES					
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE					
FOREST SERVICE					
Forest and Rangeland Research					
Forest inventory and analysis	70,000	83,000	70,000	---	-13,000
Research and development programs	226,000	208,982	207,507	-18,493	-1,475
Total, Forest and rangeland research	296,000	291,982	277,507	-18,493	-14,475
State and Private Forestry					
Landscape scale restoration	14,000	23,513	14,000	---	-9,513
Forest Health Management:					
Federal lands forest health management	58,922	58,998	58,922	---	-76
Cooperative lands forest health management	45,655	40,678	40,678	-4,977	---
Subtotal	104,577	99,676	99,600	-4,977	-76
Cooperative Forestry:					
Forest stewardship	23,036	23,049	23,036	---	-13
Forest legacy	53,000	61,000	50,660	-2,340	-10,340
Community forest and open space conservation	2,000	1,683	1,683	-317	---
Urban and community forestry	28,040	23,686	23,686	-4,354	---
Subtotal, Cooperative Forestry	106,076	109,418	99,065	-7,011	-10,353
International forestry	8,000	4,004	8,000	---	+3,996
Total, State and Private Forestry	232,653	236,611	220,665	-11,988	-15,946
National Forest System					
Integrated resource restoration	---	822,110	---	---	-822,110
Land management planning	37,754	---	32,020	-5,734	+32,020
Inventory and monitoring	151,019	---	144,890	-6,129	+144,890
Land management planning, assessment and monitoring	---	184,236	---	---	-184,236
Recreation, heritage and wilderness	261,719	263,942	256,839	-4,880	-7,103
Grazing management	55,356	49,706	55,356	---	+5,650
Forest products	339,130	---	355,000	+15,870	+355,000
Vegetation and watershed management	184,716	---	184,716	---	+184,716
Wildlife and fish habitat management	140,466	---	140,466	---	+140,466
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund	40,000	60,000	40,000	---	-20,000
Minerals and geology management	76,423	70,689	76,423	---	+5,734
Landownership management	77,730	71,601	77,730	---	+6,129
Law enforcement operations	126,653	126,030	126,653	---	+623
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,364	---	---	-3,364	---
Total, National Forest System	1,494,330	1,648,314	1,490,093	-4,237	-158,221
Capital Improvement and Maintenance					
Facilities:					
Maintenance	55,369	55,674	55,369	---	-305
Construction	16,231	16,021	16,021	-210	---
Subtotal	71,600	71,695	71,390	-210	-305
Roads:					
Maintenance	143,454	129,580	140,653	-2,801	+11,073
Construction	24,640	24,682	24,640	---	-42
Subtotal	168,094	154,262	165,293	-2,801	+11,031

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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Trails:					
Maintenance	69,777	74,264	69,777	---	-4,487
Construction	7,753	8,252	7,753	---	-499
Subtotal	77,530	82,516	77,530	---	-4,986
Deferred maintenance	3,150	33,451	3,150	---	-30,301
Legacy road and trail remediation	40,000	---	40,000	---	+40,000
Subtotal, Capital improvement and maintenance	360,374	341,924	357,363	-3,011	+15,439
Deferral of road and trail fund payment	-17,000	-17,000	-16,000	+1,000	+1,000
Total, Capital improvement and maintenance	343,374	324,924	341,363	-2,011	+16,439
Land Acquisition					
Acquisitions	36,000	47,250	9,000	-27,000	-38,250
Acquisition Management	7,500	8,500	7,250	-250	-1,250
Cash Equalization	500	250	250	-250	---
Recreational Access	2,000	5,000	2,000	---	-3,000
Critical Inholdings/Wilderness	1,500	2,000	1,500	---	-500
Total, Land Acquisition	47,500	63,000	20,000	-27,500	-43,000
Acquisition of land for national forests, special acts	950	1,950	950	---	-1,000
Acquisition of lands to complete land exchanges	216	216	216	---	---
Range betterment fund	2,320	2,320	2,320	---	---
Gifts, donations and bequests for forest and rangeland research	45	45	45	---	---
Management of national forest lands for subsistence uses	2,500	2,441	2,441	-59	---
Wildland Fire Management					
Fire operations:					
Wildland fire preparedness	1,145,840	1,082,620	1,082,620	-63,220	---
Wildland fire suppression operations	708,000	794,534	811,000	+103,000	+16,466
Subtotal, Fire operations	1,853,840	1,877,154	1,893,620	+39,780	+16,466
Other operations:					
Hazardous fuels	361,749	359,126	361,749	---	+2,623
(Hazardous Fuels Base Program)	(346,749)	---	(356,749)	(+10,000)	(+356,749)
(Biomass Grants)	(15,000)	---	(5,000)	(-10,000)	(+5,000)
Fire plan research and development	19,795	19,820	19,795	---	-25
Joint fire sciences program	6,914	6,917	6,914	---	-3
State fire assistance	78,000	78,012	78,000	---	-12
Volunteer fire assistance	13,000	13,000	13,000	---	---
Subtotal, Other operations	479,458	476,875	479,458	---	+2,583
Subtotal, Wildland Fire Management	2,333,298	2,354,029	2,373,078	+39,780	+19,049
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account					
FLAME wildfire suppression reserve account	303,060	---	315,000	+11,940	+315,000
Total, all wildland fire accounts	2,636,358	2,354,029	2,688,078	+51,720	+334,049

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Suppression cap adjustment	---	854,578	---	---	-854,578
Total, Wildland Fire Management with cap adjustment	2,636,358	3,208,607	2,688,078	+51,720	-520,529
Total, Forest Service without Wildland Fire Management	2,419,888	2,571,803	2,355,600	-64,288	-216,203
TOTAL, FOREST SERVICE	5,056,246	5,780,410	5,043,678	-12,568	-736,732
Appropriations	(5,073,246)	(4,942,832)	(5,059,678)	(-13,568)	(+116,846)
Disaster Relief cap adjustment	---	(854,578)	---	---	(-854,578)
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE					
Indian Health Services					
Clinical Services:					
Hospital and health clinics	1,836,789	1,936,323	1,878,944	+42,155	-57,379
Dental health	173,982	181,459	178,959	+4,977	-2,500
Mental health	81,145	84,485	83,199	+2,054	-1,286
Alcohol and substance abuse	190,981	227,062	198,172	+7,191	-28,890
Purchased/referred care	914,139	984,475	935,726	+21,587	-48,749
Subtotal	3,197,036	3,413,804	3,275,000	+77,964	-138,804
Preventive Health:					
Public health nursing	75,640	79,576	78,499	+2,859	-1,077
Health education	18,026	19,136	18,802	+776	-334
Community health representatives	58,469	62,363	61,129	+2,660	-1,234
Immunization (Alaska)	1,826	1,950	1,826	---	-124
Subtotal	153,961	163,025	160,256	+6,295	-2,769
Other services:					
Urban Indian health	43,604	43,604	44,410	+806	+806
Indian health professions	48,342	48,342	48,342	---	---
Tribal management grant program	2,442	2,442	2,442	---	---
Direct operations	68,065	68,338	67,384	-681	-954
Self-governance	5,727	5,735	5,735	+8	---
Contract support costs	662,970	717,970	717,970	+55,000	---
Subtotal	831,150	886,431	886,283	+55,133	-148
Total, Indian Health Services	4,182,147	4,463,260	4,321,539	+139,392	-141,721
Indian Health Facilities					
Maintenance and improvement	53,614	89,097	53,614	---	-35,483
Sanitation facilities construction	79,423	115,138	79,423	---	-35,715
Health care facilities construction	85,048	185,048	85,048	---	-100,000
Facilities and environmental health support	219,612	226,870	224,882	+5,270	-1,988
Equipment	22,537	23,572	23,362	+825	-210
Total, Indian Health Facilities	460,234	639,725	466,329	+6,095	-173,396
TOTAL, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE	4,642,381	5,102,985	4,787,868	+145,487	-315,117

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH					
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences...	77,349	77,349	77,349	---	---
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY					
Toxic substances and environmental public health.....	74,691	74,691	74,691	---	---
TOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES..	4,794,421	5,255,025	4,939,908	+145,487	-315,117
OTHER RELATED AGENCIES					
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT					
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality.....	3,000	3,015	3,000	---	-15
CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD					
Salaries and expenses.....	11,000	12,271	11,000	---	-1,271
OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION					
Salaries and expenses.....	7,341	8,400	7,341	---	-1,059
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT					
Payment to the Institute.....	9,469	11,619	9,469	---	-2,150
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION					
Salaries and Expenses					
Museum and Research Institutes:					
National Air and Space Museum.....	18,603	19,469	18,603	---	-866
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.....	23,957	24,343	23,957	---	-386
Major scientific instrumentation.....	4,118	6,118	4,118	---	-2,000
Universe Center.....	184	184	184	---	---
National Museum of Natural History.....	47,992	48,935	47,992	---	-943
National Zoological Park.....	25,420	26,603	26,120	+700	-483
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.....	3,909	3,992	3,909	---	-83
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.....	14,025	14,271	14,025	---	-246
Biodiversity Center.....	1,520	2,285	1,520	---	-765
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery/Freer Gallery of Art.....	6,049	6,169	6,049	---	-120
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.....	2,503	2,603	2,503	---	-100
Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum.....	4,755	4,842	4,755	---	-87
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.....	4,301	4,605	4,301	---	-304
National Museum of African Art.....	4,227	4,632	4,227	---	-405
World Cultures Center.....	284	284	284	---	---
Anacostia Community Museum.....	2,093	2,415	2,093	---	-322
Archives of American Art.....	1,859	1,898	1,859	---	-39
National Museum of African American History and Culture.....	40,648	41,501	41,148	+500	-353
National Museum of American History.....	22,840	24,333	22,840	---	-1,493
National Museum of the American Indian.....	31,444	32,077	31,444	---	-633
National Portrait Gallery.....	5,997	6,448	5,997	---	-451
Smithsonian American Art Museum.....	9,474	10,005	9,474	---	-531
American Experience Center.....	593	595	593	---	-2
Subtotal, Museums and Research Institutes.....	276,795	288,607	277,995	+1,200	-10,612
Mission enabling:					
Program support and outreach:					
Outreach.....	9,150	14,317	9,150	---	-5,167
Communications.....	2,567	3,945	2,567	---	-1,378
Institution-wide programs.....	10,505	14,784	14,384	+3,879	-400

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Exhibits Central	2,974	3,037	2,974	---	-63
Museum Support Center	1,848	1,884	1,848	---	-36
Museum Conservation Institute	3,244	3,308	3,244	---	-64
Smithsonian Institution Archives	2,167	2,223	2,167	---	-56
Smithsonian Institution Libraries	10,399	10,748	10,399	---	-349
Subtotal, Program support and outreach	42,854	54,246	46,733	+3,879	-7,513
Office of Chief Information Officer	48,929	53,395	48,929	---	-4,466
Administration	34,067	34,977	34,067	---	-910
Inspector General	3,416	3,476	3,416	---	-60
Facilities services:					
Facilities maintenance	71,403	86,695	71,403	---	-15,292
Facilities operations, security and support	197,879	214,429	197,879	---	-16,550
Subtotal, Facilities services	269,282	301,124	269,282	---	-31,842
Subtotal, Mission enabling	398,548	447,218	402,427	+3,879	-44,791
Total, Salaries and expenses	675,343	735,825	680,422	+5,079	-55,403
Facilities Capital					
Revitalization	97,588	144,590	112,000	+14,412	-32,590
Facilities planning and design	22,600	55,410	27,119	+4,519	-28,291
Construction	24,010	---	---	-24,010	---
Total, Facilities Capital	144,198	200,000	139,119	-5,079	-60,881
TOTAL, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION	819,541	935,825	819,541	---	-116,284
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART					
Salaries and Expenses					
Care and utilization of art collections	39,418	42,226	39,418	---	-2,808
Operation and maintenance of buildings and grounds	33,858	34,532	33,858	---	-674
Protection of buildings, grounds and contents	22,418	22,943	22,418	---	-525
General administration	23,806	26,959	23,806	---	-3,153
Total, Salaries and Expenses	119,500	126,660	119,500	---	-7,160
Repair, Restoration and Renovation of Buildings					
Base program	19,000	26,000	19,000	---	-7,000
TOTAL, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART	138,500	152,660	138,500	---	-14,160
JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS					
Operations and maintenance	22,000	21,660	21,660	-340	---
Capital repair and restoration	10,800	14,740	11,140	+340	-3,600
TOTAL, JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	32,800	36,400	32,800	---	-3,600
WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS					
Salaries and expenses	10,500	10,420	10,420	-80	---

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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES					
National Endowment for the Arts					
Grants and Administration					
Grants:					
Direct grants	62,380	63,420	62,380	---	-1,040
Challenge America grants	7,600	7,600	7,600	---	---
Subtotal	69,980	71,020	69,980	---	-1,040
State partnerships:					
State and regional	36,716	37,262	36,716	---	-546
Underserved set-aside	9,937	10,084	9,937	---	-147
Subtotal	46,653	47,346	46,653	---	-693
Subtotal, Grants	116,633	118,366	116,633	---	-1,733
Program support	1,990	1,780	1,780	-210	---
Administration	27,398	27,803	27,608	+210	-195
Total, Arts	146,021	147,949	146,021	---	-1,928
National Endowment for the Humanities					
Grants and Administration					
Grants:					
Bridging cultures	3,500	---	---	-3,500	---
Special Initiative: The Common Good	---	5,500	3,695	+3,695	-1,805
Federal/State partnership	42,528	43,040	43,040	+512	---
Preservation and access	15,460	15,200	15,200	-260	---
Public programs	13,684	13,454	13,454	-230	---
Research programs	14,784	14,536	14,536	-248	---
Education programs	13,265	13,040	13,040	-225	---
Program development	500	500	500	---	---
Digital humanities initiatives	4,400	4,480	4,480	+80	---
Subtotal, Grants	108,121	109,750	107,945	-176	-1,805
Matching Grants:					
Treasury funds	2,400	2,400	2,400	---	---
Challenge grants	8,500	8,500	8,500	---	---
Subtotal, Matching grants	10,900	10,900	10,900	---	---
Administration	27,000	27,292	27,176	+176	-116
Total, Humanities	146,021	147,942	146,021	---	-1,921
TOTAL, NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES	292,042	295,891	292,042	---	-3,849
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS					
Salaries and expenses	2,524	2,653	2,524	---	-129
NATIONAL CAPITAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS					
Grants	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION					
Salaries and expenses	6,204	6,080	6,080	-124	---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016 (H.R. 2822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION					
Salaries and expenses	7,948	8,348	7,948	---	-400
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM					
Holocaust Memorial Museum	52,385	54,959	52,385	---	-2,574
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION					
Construction	---	68,200	---	---	-68,200
Salaries and expenses	1,000	2,000	---	-1,000	-2,000
Total, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION	1,000	70,200	---	-1,000	-70,200
TOTAL, TITLE III, RELATED AGENCIES	11,246,921	12,646,176	11,378,636	+131,715	-1,267,540
(Disaster Relief cap adjustment)	---	(854,578)	---	---	(-854,578)
GRAND TOTAL	30,105,720	33,324,129	30,231,720	+126,000	-3,092,409
Appropriations	(30,173,720)	(32,299,551)	(30,267,720)	(+94,000)	(-2,031,831)
Rescissions	(-40,000)	---	(-8,000)	(+32,000)	(-8,000)
Rescissions of contract authority	(-28,000)	(-30,000)	(-28,000)	---	(+2,000)
Disaster Relief cap adjustment	---	(1,054,578)	---	---	(-1,054,578)
(By transfer)	(28,789)	(24,676)	(24,676)	(-4,113)	---
(Transfer out)	(-28,789)	(-24,676)	(-24,676)	(+4,113)	---
(Discretionary total)	(30,416,000)	(33,262,409)	(30,170,000)	(-246,000)	(-3,092,409)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank Ranking Member LOWEY for her support and her mentorship as I start working on this very first appropriations bill on the House floor.

I would like to thank my subcommittee chairman, KEN CALVERT, for the effort he has put into this bill. I appreciate that even as Chairman CALVERT grappled with an inadequate funding allocation, he carried out his work in an open and thoughtful manner. The chairman is to be commended for his diligence in holding 14 budget hearings, where we received testimony from nearly 150 witnesses.

Let me also, along with the chairman, express my appreciation to the subcommittee staff on the minority and majority sides for their hard work during another difficult budget year.

Unfortunately, the inadequate 302(b) allocation given to the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations sets this bill up for failure. The majority's refusal to adopt a sufficient overall budget allocation for discretionary appropriations has led to a bill that severely underfunds investments and protections that are priorities for the American people.

The subcommittee's 302(b) allocation for FY 2016 is $246 million below the current year's enacted level. When added to the cuts of the past 5 years, this bill is more than $2 billion below the FY 2010 enacted level. In fact, when adjusted for inflation, this bill invests less than what was appropriated in 2005.

But it gets worse. The rising emergency costs of combating wildland fires, court-ordered Native American contract support costs, and the majority's decision to abandon mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, otherwise known as PILT, means the remaining funding available for other critical public programs is far below the FY 2015 enacted.

PILT has been mandatory spending in the past, and almost 2,000 counties use this compensation for lost tax revenue to provide vital services. PILT should not be in this discretionary bill. It should be returned to mandatory spending.

The courts have ruled that Congress must pay full contract support costs to tribal nations. Contract support costs are true mandatory spending, and they should not be in this discretionary bill.

Catastrophic wildland fires are natural disasters and, just as any other natural disaster, they should be treated as such emergency spending. Catastrophic wildland fires should not be subject to discretionary spending caps in this bill.

Together, spending on these three activities consumes $5.4 billion, or 18 percent of the bill's budget allocation. It is time for the authorizing committees to stop ignoring this problem and responsibly address what are truly mandatory costs, because these costs are burning through our budget allocation.

So what does that mean for the rest of the programs funded by H.R. 2822? After years of cuts and flat funding, it means we are going backwards and undermining efforts to preserve America's natural and cultural heritage, failing to meet our commitments to the social and economic well-being of Native Americans, and causing real and lasting harm to the environment.

We received compelling testimony this year on the unmet needs in Indian Country, especially in the areas of education and health. Yet this bill's inadequate allocation means that many Native American programs receive far less funding than what the President requested and what Native Americans indeed deserve.

This is unfortunate because, as the chairman pointed out, he and I share a deep bipartisan commitment to bettering the lives of Native Americans and to uphold our Federal trust and treaty obligations.

Last year, attendance at our national parks was at a record high. With the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, visitation is expected to increase. But what will visitors find when they come to the centennial celebration?

Without additional funding, they will find historic hotels in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks that have serious health, safety, and accessibility issues. They will find closed facilities at Yosemite due to 70-year-old sewer lines that are failing. And under the Republican spending plan, what visitors will not find are the hundreds of seasonal rangers that the Park Service needs to hire to restore staffing capacity to 2010 levels.

Under H.R. 2822, less than 16 percent of the funds requested for the National Park Service's centennial are provided. By underfunding the Centennial Challenge, this bill misses the opportunity to allow the American public to support their parks through matching donations.

The National Park's Civil Rights initiative fares only slightly better, with just 19 percent of the request funded. It is our responsibility to act now to preserve the stories and monuments of the civil rights movement.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is cut by more than 25 percent below the FY 2015-enacted level, continuing the pattern of shortchanging conservation.

Wildlife programs are underfunded as well, with cuts or flat funding to programs that assist in the recovery of species or help to prevent their listing in the first place. Funding decisions such as these set up the Endangered Species Act to fail.

However, the most significant and devastating cuts are again targeted at the Environmental Protection Agency. The bill cuts the EPA by $718 million from the FY 2015-enacted level, a 9 percent cut. This is on top of the nearly 20 percent cut the Agency has received over the past 4 years.

The air every American breathes and the water every American family drinks are all at risk by the funding cuts and policy attacks in this bill. When the majority says it wants to rein in the EPA, what they are really doing is denying the protection of our air and water.

The consequences of abandoning public health and environmental protection will be negatively felt in communities across this Nation. Why? Because this bill cuts the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Revolving Funds by more than half a billion dollars. The revolving funds are part of a partnership with our communities to build and repair infrastructure that protects America's drinking water and prevents sewage from contaminating our water. And when we invest in these water systems, we are also creating jobs in communities all across the country.

Earlier this month, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior released their latest summer fire forecast, which showed that fire costs are likely to exceed FY 2015-enacted levels by nearly $300 million.

Wildland fires burn up 12 percent, or $3.9 billion, of the bill's allocation. And without some relief, these numbers will only continue to grow.

In just the past 3 years, we have had to make up a total of a billion-dollar shortfall that forced agencies to borrow funds from other accounts to pay for fire costs. We know the answer to this problem. Many of us are cosponsors of Mr. SIMPSON's bill, H.R. 167, to treat a portion of these wildfire costs as they are—disasters.

Yet as problematic as the funding decisions in this bill are, what is even more troubling are the more than two dozen problem legislative riders and funding limitations contained in the bill, with seven of these being new this year.

These provisions do not belong in the bill. These are proposals that should be moved through the authorizing committee, where open, transparent, and thoughtful debate can take place.

The riders the majority have hung on this bill undermine our Nation's bedrock environmental laws, endanger public health and safety, and deny the impact that climate change is having on our planet.

Several of these riders would require that Agency scientists and procedures be ignored, saying that they ''can't be trusted.'' Yet other provisions would overturn Federal court decisions and limit judicial review.

As lawmakers, we create the legislation that guides our Nation, but my colleagues in the majority seem to need a reminder that we are only one of three branches of government. Clearly, we are the most important branch. But the other two branches have jobs to do as well.

For a majority that complains about the Federal rulemaking process, it is

surprising to see that the bill contains directives that certain Federal rules be issued. It would appear that the majority is okay with Federal rulemaking, but only as long as the rules are the ones they want.

With the inadequate funding and special interest provisions, I share the administration's concerns about this bill. I will submit the Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 2822, which is eight pages and includes a veto threat.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2822—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

(Rep. Rogers, R–KY)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 2822, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes. The bill drastically underfunds core Department of the Interior programs as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's operating budget, which supports nationwide protection of human health and our vital air, water and land resources. Funding levels in the bill would prevent investments that reduce future costs to taxpayers by facilitating increased energy development and maintaining facilities and infrastructure in national parks, refuges, forests, public lands, and Indian Country. They would make it harder for States and businesses to plan and execute changes that would decrease carbon pollution and address the challenges the Nation faces from climate change. They would also reduce support for partnerships and effective collaboration with States, local governments and private entities on efforts to restore and conserve natural resources. Further, the bill includes numerous highly problematic ideological provisions that have no place in funding legislation. These provisions threaten to undermine the ability of States and communities to address climate change and protect a resource that is essential to America's health—clean water, as well as the most basic protections for America's special places and the people and wildlife that rely on them. If the President were presented with H.R. 2822, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Enacting H.R. 2822 and adhering to the congressional Republican budget's overall spending limits for fiscal year (FY) 2016 would hurt our economy and shortchange investments in middle-class priorities. Sequestration was never intended to take effect: rather, it was supposed to threaten such drastic cuts to both defense and non-defense funding that policymakers would be motivated to come to the table and reduce the deficit through smart, balanced reforms. The Republican framework would bring base discretionary funding for both non-defense and defense for FY 2016 to the lowest real levels in a decade. Compared to the President's Budget, the cuts would result in tens of thousands of the Nation's most vulnerable children losing access to Head Start, millions fewer workers receiving job training and employment services, and drastic cuts to research awards and grants, along with other impacts that would hurt the economy, the middle class, and Americans working hard to reach the middle class.

Sequestration funding levels would also put our national security at unnecessary risk, not only through pressures on defense spending, but also through pressures on State, USAID, Homeland Security, and other non-defense programs that help keep us safe. More broadly, the strength of our economy and the security of our Nation are linked. That is why the President has been clear that he is not willing to lock in sequestration going forward, nor will he accept fixes to defense without also fixing non-defense.

The President's senior advisors would recommend that he veto H.R. 2822 and any other legislation that implements the current Republican budget framework, which blocks the investments needed for our economy to compete in the future. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to reverse sequestration for defense and non-defense priorities and offset the cost with commonsense spending and tax expenditure cuts, as Members of Congress from both parties have urged.

The Administration would like to take this opportunity to share additional views regarding the Committee's version of the bill.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

EPA Operating Budget. The Administration disagrees strongly with the bill's reduction to EPA's operating budget by $474 million, or 13 percent, compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. This reduced level of funding would significantly undermine implementation of the Clean Power Plan and the recently finalized Clean Water Rule. The Clean Power Plan is a flexible and practical approach to addressing the risks of climate change by reducing carbon pollution from the electric power sector, the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States. Climate change is not only an environmental challenge, it is also an economic, public health, and national security challenge. Unabated climate change is projected to hamper economic growth in the United States and put the health and well-being of the Nation at risk from extreme weather events, wildland fire, poor air quality, and illnesses transmitted by food, water, and disease carriers such as mosquitos and ticks. Failing to address climate change would also exacerbate poverty and contribute to environmental degradation in developing countries, potentially resulting in resource shortages, political instability, and conflict. Meanwhile, the bill also reduces funding to implement the recently finalized Clean Water Rule that would ensure waters protected under the Clean Water Act are more precisely defined and predictably determined. By delaying implementation of this rule, business and industry face a more costly, difficult, and slower permitting process.

State Categorical Grants. The Administration opposes the $118 million reduction to State and Tribal Categorical grants compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. Often, States and Tribes implement environmental programs through delegated authorities. However, the bill reduces these grants to States and Tribes to carry out activities such as water quality permitting, air monitoring, and hazardous waste management programs. In addition, the bill reduces funding for brownfields projects by $35 million, or 32 percent, from the FY 2016 Budget request. This reduced level of funding severely limits opportunities for local communities to revitalize their contaminated lands to improve environmental quality and spark economic redevelopment.

State Revolving Funds (SRFs). The Administration objects to the funding levels provided for EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs. The bill reduces SRF funding by a combined $527 million from the FY 2016 Budget request, reducing necessary support to help communities finance water infrastructure improvements, resulting in approximately 200 fewer projects being funded nationally.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Limits for Power Plants. The Administration strongly objects to section 428 of the bill, which would prohibit the use of funds to propose, finalize, implement or enforce carbon pollution standards for fossil fuel-fired electric generating units that are the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States. The bill seeks to derail Administration efforts to address under section 111 of the Clean Air Act the urgent economic, public health, and national security impacts of unabated climate change. Failure to reduce the utility sector's carbon footprint places the Nation at risk from extreme weather events, wildland fire, poor air quality, global instability, accelerated environmental degradation, and illnesses transmitted by food, water, and disease carriers such as mosquitos and ticks.

Clean Water Act (CWA). The Administration believes that the CWA provisions in the bill undermine efforts to protect America's clean water resources, which are critical to American families and businesses. The Administration strongly objects to section 422 of the bill in particular, which would disrupt the Administration's current efforts to clarify the scope of CWA, hamstring future regulatory efforts, and create significant ambiguity regarding existing regulations and guidance.

Social Cost of Carbon (SCC). The Administration regards the SCC as an essential component of the environmental rulemaking process and opposes the Congress' interference with the Interagency Working Group's (IWG) development of the SCC. The Administration strongly objects to section 437 of the bill, which would force the IWG to revise the SCC using only the discount rates and ''domestic'' SCC values stated in Executive Order 12866 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A–4. This revision would ignore the trans-boundary movement of carbon, fail to capture key costs of carbon emissions, and disrupt dozens of upcoming rules that would use the SCC to monetize carbon reduction benefits.

Limitations on Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program under the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Administration objects to section 435 of the bill, which would block the finalization, implementation, and enforcement of a rule to prohibit certain uses of climate super-pollutants known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Domestic action to reduce use of HFCs is consistent with U.S. advocacy for addressing HFCs on a global basis, such as through an amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

National Ocean Policy. The Administration objects to section 425 of the bill, which prohibits any funding provided in the bill from being used to implement the marine planning components of the National Ocean Policy. This provision would prohibit the Department of the Interior (DOI) and EPA from participating in marine and coastal planning efforts, a process to better determine how the ocean, the Nation's coasts, and the Great Lakes are managed in an efficient manner.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) Financial Assurance. The Administration objects to section 427 of the bill, which prohibits the use of funds to develop, propose, finalize, and implement financial responsibility requirements under CERCLA 108(b). On May 19, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered EPA to develop an expedited schedule for financial responsibility rules for the hardrock mining industry and for three other industries. This provision would severely limit EPA's ability to develop these rules in a timely manner and abrogates EPA's responsibilities laid out in CERCLA 108(b).

Classification of Forest Biomass Fuels as Carbon-Neutral. The Administration objects

to the bill's representation of forest biomass as categorically ''carbon-neutral.'' This language conflicts with existing EPA policies on biogenic CO_2 and interferes with the position of States that do not apply the same policies to forest biomass as other renewable fuels like solar or wind. This language stands in contradiction to a wide-ranging consensus on policies and best available science from EPA's own independent Science Advisory Board, numerous technical studies, many States, and various other stakeholders.

e-Manifest. The Administration objects to the elimination of funding for e-Manifest development, EPA's system for electronically tracking the transport of hazardous waste. While the Administration acknowledges the concern about the pace of development of the e-Manifest, eliminating the requested $7 million in funding at this time would jeopardize EPA's ongoing progress to develop the system and begin operations in the coming years.

Lead Test Kits. The Administration objects to section 426 of the bill that would disrupt EPA's current activities under the 2008 Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting rule until EPA approves a commercially available ''improved'' lead paint test kit. This provision would undermine EPA's efforts to protect sensitive populations from exposure to lead, a known toxin to children and developing fetuses, during home renovation projects.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Topline. The Administration opposes the $159 million, or 5 percent, reduction to BIA as compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. This funding level would limit DOI's ability to make key investments in education and wrap-around services to support Native youth, eliminating all increases to post-secondary scholarships and $10 million for education program enhancement funds to allow Bureau of Indian Education to drive school improvement and reforms. The bill reduces funding for initiatives aimed at supporting tribal self-determination through the creation of a one-stop portal to facilitate access to Federal resources and funding to address data gaps in Indian Country, and the creation of an Office of Indian Affairs Policy, Program Evaluation, and Data to support effective, data-driven, tribal policy making and program implementation. In addition, this bill eliminates all increases to natural resources management on tribal lands, including funds to help tribal communities prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

National Park Service (NPS) Centennial. The Administration opposes funding levels provided for the NPS Centennial. The bill fails to provide adequate funding to prepare for the Centennial in 2016, resulting in the delay of roughly 70 percent of line-item park construction projects and 36 percent of repair and rehabilitation projects, and forgoes millions in matching private donations. The bill also fails to provide funding for engaging youth and cultivating the next generation of conservation-minded individuals, including funding for transportation assistance to students from Title I schools.

Onshore Inspection Fees. The bill does not include a proposal in the FY 2016 Budget request to institute a new onshore oil and gas inspection fee program. The proposal, which is similar to the program already in place for offshore operations, would cover the cost of inspection activities and reduce the net cost to taxpayers of operating the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) oil and gas program. Failure to adopt the new fees and associated funding would hamper the BLM's ability to protect human safety, conserve energy resources, facilitate the proper reporting of oil and gas production, and ensure environmental requirements are being followed in all phases of development.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. The Administration opposes the 15 percent reduction to State and Tribal Wildlife Grants compared to the FY 2016 Budget request. This important program allows States and Tribes, key partners in conservation, to strategically protect wildlife and conserve habitat in a way that complements Federal investments and yields better results for the public.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). The bill provides $452 million for PILT, which the Administration has proposed to fund through a separate mandatory appropriation in line with its previous congressional enactment. While the Administration appreciates the Committee's support for PILT, inclusion of these funds in the bill comes at the expense of all other programs funded by the bill.

Carcieri Land into Trust. The bill fails to include the provision in the FY 2016 Budget request to clarify and reaffirm the Secretary of the Interior's authority to acquire land in trust under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). In Carcieri v. Salazar, 555 U.S. 397 (2009), the Supreme Court held that the Secretary could acquire land in trust under the IRA only for tribes that were ''under Federal jurisdiction'' in 1934. A legislative solution would help achieve the goals of the IRA and tribal self-determination by clarifying that DOI's authority under the law applies to all tribes, whether recognized in 1934 or after. Such legislation would be consistent with the longstanding policy of assisting Tribes in establishing and protecting a land base sufficient to allow them to provide for the health, welfare, and safety of tribal members, and in treating all tribes equally for purposes of setting aside lands for tribal communities.

Hydraulic Fracturing: Section 439 of the bill would block DOI from implementing, administering or enforcing the Bureau of Land Management's recently-finalized Hydraulic Fracturing rule. This would leave the agency reliant on 30-year old requirements and prevent it from taking key steps to improve the safety of oil and gas drilling activities and improve opportunities for BLM to coordinate standards and processes with States and Tribes to reduce administrative costs and improve efficiency.

Stream Buffer Regulation. Section 423 would prohibit DOI's Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement from updating 30-year-old stream protection regulations to reflect modern science and technology and better protect people and the environment, provide industry more certainty, and address recent court decisions.

Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting. Sections 421 and 424 would substantially impair the enforcement of a longstanding ban on the use of lead ammunition in the hunting of migratory waterfowl, and would complicate in other ways the overall implementation of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on public lands.

Wildlife Trafficking. Section 120 would interfere with ongoing Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) actions to combat wildlife trafficking, curb the poaching of African Elephants, and restrict trade in ivory, which would impair U.S. leadership in the global fight against ivory poaching.

Endangered Species Act Restrictions. Sections 117, 121, and 122 of the bill undercut the Endangered Species Act by limiting the ability of the FWS to properly protect, based on the best available science, a number of species, including the greater sage grouse, northern long-eared bat, and certain gray wolf populations. Language provisions, like those affecting the sage grouse, would only create additional uncertainty and undermine unprecedented efforts to conserve the sagebrush landscape and the Western way of life.

Federal Acknowledgement of American Indian Tribes. Language under the heading ''Bureau of Indian Affairs, Administrative Provisions'' in the bill would block DOI from finalizing, implementing, administering, or enforcing the Administration's proposed Federal acknowledgment rule, preventing DOI's effort to improve the regulations governing the process and criteria by which the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges an Indian Tribe.

DOI AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), FOREST SERVICE

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Administration objects to the drastic reduction of $152 million, or 38 percent, to the requested discretionary funding for DOI and USDA LWCF programs. LWCF is a cornerstone of Federal conservation and recreation preservation efforts. This funding level would severely impede agency capacity to further protect our Nation's natural heritage. To date, the LWCF has contributed to the protection of key public lands, such as Rocky Mountain National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and portions of the Appalachian Trail, among others, as well as State and local recreation projects and important cultural heritage sites.

Wildland Fire Suppression. The Administration's cap adjustment for wildfire suppression was not included in this bill. Continued inaction on this proposal, which has bipartisan support, would increase the likelihood of disruptive funding transfers for suppression and away from the very restoration and fire risk reduction programs that are meant to restore landscapes and reduce suppression costs and restore landscapes.

Land Management Operations. The Administration opposes the $502 million, or 8 percent, reduction to operational funding to land management agencies, relative to the FY 2016 Budget request. This reduction would undermine support for the provision of basic public and business services that support the long-term health and resilience of national parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands.

Water Rights on Federal Land. Section 434 prohibits agencies from conditioning land use authorizations on the transfer, relinquishment, or impairment of a water right, or on the acquisition of a water right in the name of the United States. This language is unnecessary for its intended purpose, and would preclude land management agencies from protecting the public interest. The provision would eliminate the ability of land management agencies to maintain sufficient water for other congressionally-designated purposes and ensure water rights are tied to the activities for which they were developed. These restrictions would also hamper cooperative work with land users to improve land conditions, such as range improvements, or conduct habitat mitigation activities as part of land use agreements.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), FOREST SERVICE

Land Management Improvements. The bill provides $357 million for capital improvement and maintenance of the national forest system, a 5 percent increase from the FY 2016 Budget request. While the Administration supports the capital improvement and maintenance of the Nation's public forests in order to increase its health, resilience, and accessibility, the increase in this bill comes at the expense of other needed priorities.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Indian Health Service (IHS) Topline. The Administration strongly opposes the reduction to funding for Native American health

care programs and facilities of the Indian Health Service (IHS) by $300 million, or 6 percent, below the FY 2016 Budget request. This would result in inadequate funding for the provision of health care to a population that is sicker and poorer compared to national averages. For example, compared to the FY 2016 Budget request, the bill reduces funding by nearly $50 million for Purchased and Referred Care, a program that supports health care not available in IHS and tribal facilities, which would exacerbate existing levels of denied care and waiting lists for services.

Contract Support Costs. The Administration objects to the limitation in funding for tribal Contract Support Costs (CSC) for BIA and IHS. Specifically, the bill would limit funding for CSC that could perpetuate the funding issues described in the Supreme Court's Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter decision. The Congress should pursue a long-term solution for CSC appropriations, providing an increase in funding in FY 2016 as part of a transition to a new three-year mandatory funding stream in FY 2017, as proposed in the President's Budget.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Smithsonian Institution. The bill reduces funding for the Smithsonian Institution by $116 million, or 12 percent, below the FY 2016 Budget request—a reduction that can be expected to reduce public access to the Smithsonian as well as increase safety concerns through delays in planned renovations. With over 30 million visits to Smithsonian facilities recorded in 2014, it is important to ensure the museums, galleries, National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities that make up the world's largest museum and research complex remain open, maintained, and available to the generations of Americans who make use of this unique institution each year. Specifically, the bill reductions would delay renovation for the National Air and Space Museum, where the museum has had to establish temporary covered walkways to protect the public from potential falling debris from its facade, and would reduce operating hours for the museums, including the new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act). The Administration urges the Congress to fully fund the FY 2016 Budget requests for DOI and EPA to implement the DATA Act. This funding would support efforts to provide more transparent Federal spending data, such as updating information technology systems, changing business processes, and employing a uniform procurement instrument identifier.

U.S. Digital Service Team. The Administration urges the Congress to fully fund the FY 2016 Budget requests for DOI and EPA to develop U.S. Digital Service teams. This funding would support managing the agency's digital services that have the greatest impact to citizens and businesses.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERNS

Several provisions in the bill raise separation of powers concerns.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress as the FY 2016 appropriations process moves forward.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, we owe it to our constituents to be good stewards of the environment, to be protectors of public health, and to be defenders of the public good. We can do better than what this bill offers. H.R. 2822 falls short of our responsibilities to present and future generations. As such, I cannot support the bill in its current form.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the full committee chairman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2016 Department of the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. This is the eighth of the 12 individual bills that have made it to the floor. That is a record pace, by the way. It is the fastest that these bills have come before the House since at least 1974, when the Budget Control Act came into being.

This bill, as the chairman said, provides just over $30 billion in discretionary funding for programs that preserve and nurture our Nation's unique natural and cultural heritage. This fulfills our responsibility to the American taxpayers to provide funding for these important programs within a smart and sustainable budget.

Our responsibility to the American taxpayers, of course, doesn't end there. The people of this Nation expect their government to act in a way that fosters economic development and job creation. This current administration has been neglecting that duty, instead choosing to push a regulatory agenda that would create an environment hostile to economic growth, that would put our energy independence at risk, and that could cost thousands of hard-working Americans their jobs.

So this bill takes important steps to stop this harmful executive overreach. First and foremost, we limit funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, cutting its funding by 9 percent from last year.

The bill also prohibits the EPA from implementing a litany of its egregious, expensive regulations, including applying new greenhouse gas regulations for power plants, updating existing ozone regulations, and changing the definitions of ''navigable waters'' and ''fill material,'' all of which could spell disaster for our economy.

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The bill also prevents the Bureau of Land Management from hampering economic growth by halting increases in oil and gas inspection fees and from burdening ranchers with higher grazing fees.

Provisions like these will help get the government out of the way of growth, preventing the overregulation and overtaxation of American business and industry, and keeping down manufacturing costs and utility bills for families across the country.

In addition, the bill also focuses funding on other important Department of the Interior related programs. For instance, the bill creates a new $30 million program to help accelerate the reclamation of abandoned mine lands, boosting local community redevelopment.

The bill also fulfills our moral and legal obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives, increasing funding for programs that will help improve education systems, health facilities, and other infrastructure.

The bill prioritizes the prevention of and preparation for wildland fires, increasing funding for these programs billwide by $52 million.

Mr. Chairman, this is a fine appropriations bill that we have before us today. I want to commend Chairman CALVERT for his good work on this bill. He, the ranking member, and the subcommittee have done a thorough job on the bill, and I am proud to support it. I also want to thank the staff for their work to bring this bill to the floor today.

This is the maiden voyage, Mr. Chairman, of this cardinal, this new chairman, the new chairman of this subcommittee. This is his first bill, and it is a good one. I want to salute him and his staff for doing a great job in putting together a bill that was tough to put together. Congratulations to you.

Before I close, Mr. Chairman, I want to take a moment to recognize one of my staff members, Mike Robinson, who will be moving on to greener pastures next week.

Mike started working for me nearly 20 years ago and has had several tenures in my personal office. Four years ago, he joined the Appropriations Committee, the front office, as coalitions and Member services director.

Many of our colleagues have gotten a chance to know Mike over these past 4 years. He has answered your questions. He has helped you offer amendments. He has helped guide dozens of appropriations bills to passage. He has been an integral part of the staff over these years, and we will miss him greatly when he departs.

Thank you, Mike, for all of your hard work. We are very grateful to you.

Mr. Chairman, this is an appropriations bill that puts our Nation's economy first. It preserves the role of the Federal Government, making sure the government is doing its job well, not in a way that intrudes into the lives of American businesses or the American people, but in a way that encourages our economy to grow and thrive, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT; Chairman ROGERS; as well as my good friend BETTY MCCOLLUM, who is doing an outstanding job in her first year as ranking member of the subcommittee; and all the hard-working staff on both sides of the aisle.

However, while I appreciate the chairman's willingness to accommodate some Democratic priorities, this

is the latest in a series of bills that drastically shortchanges job-creating investments and vital environmental protections, while carrying a wish list of special interest giveaways that hurt hard-working American families' health and safety.

The President proposed to end sequestration through more reasonable and realistic budgeting 4 months ago, but Republicans have yet to engage on finding a workable solution. How much longer do we have to play this charade, the Republican shutdown strategy, before the House considers bills that could be enacted?

Refusing to adopt a sufficient overall allocation for discretionary investments has led to a bill that severely underfunds far too many priorities.

The EPA would be slashed $1.17 billion below the President's request, $718 million below the 2015 enacted level. Such a draconian cut would take EPA investments back to 1997 levels.

Capital programs are dramatically underfunded, with Indian Health facilities receiving $173 million less than the President's request.

Over half a billion dollars in cuts to the State revolving funds endanger our Nation's water infrastructure, cutting 32,000 construction jobs on 207 projects, risking public health with fewer water and drinking water projects.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which conserves irreplaceable lands and improves outdoor recreation opportunities, would be cut by 30 percent below the current level.

Unsurprisingly, the majority seeks to dismantle critical environmental protections in the bill that are supposed to advance environmental initiatives.

In a demonstration of solidarity with climate change deniers and the coal industry, the majority would prevent the administration from advancing new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite the fact that it harmonizes existing activities to protect the environment, 2.8 million ocean industry jobs, $282 billion in GDP generated by ocean industries in coastal States, the National Ocean Policy's implementation would be blocked.

Once again, the majority has waged war on the Endangered Species Act, placing politics above science and jeopardizing the protection of precious species, including wolves.

Instead of allowing the United States to lead the world to end the trade of ivory, the Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts would be rolled back.

Given the number of unnecessary riders, it is particularly disappointing that the majority didn't include our colleague, Mr. SIMPSON's wildfire bill, an excellent proposal that would improve our ability to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Democrats are more than willing to find a balanced and fiscally responsible way to lift the sequester that is strangling our investments in America's future and invest in a stronger defense, better infrastructure, and bigger paycheck for America's hard-working families.

I hope that, as we move forward, this bill makes those investments and sheds unnecessary policy changes. I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided bill.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS), our new hard-working member.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to your hard work and to the ranking member, to your staff, and all who have worked so hard on this legislation.

This bill is notable for what it funds and what it doesn't fund.

West Virginians, we love our clean water. We love clean air. We love our mountains and our forests and our rivers.

What West Virginians do not love is this President's war on coal. This week, petitions from 26,000 West Virginians were delivered to my office asking the President to stop the war on coal. West Virginia's jobs and our citizens' livelihoods are on the line. The President has requested hundreds of millions of dollars to spend on new regulations, programs, and an army of lawyers to defend his illegal regulatory overreach.

Our State has lost 7,000 coal jobs in just the last 3 years of this administration. Today, we say ''no'' to funding the war on coal, ''no'' to regulatory overreach. We do cut the EPA's budget by more than $1 billion from what was requested. We halt harmful, job-killing rules on new and existing coal-fired power plants.

We say no to changing the definition of navigable waters and fill material, no to imposing ozone regulations that are simply unachievable, and no to imposing the stream buffer zone rule.

The Administrator of the EPA even refused to come to West Virginia to talk to our communities and hard-working coal miners, but instead, when she refused, I brought coal miners to the Appropriations Committee to tell their story, and it was a powerful story.

Today, I am here with 26,000 other voices to make sure they are heard here at the Capitol.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership. Thank you for the hard work.

I would appreciate a ''yes'' vote on this important legislation

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER), a member of the subcommittee who is very valued.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking the subcommittee chairman, my friend from California, and the ranking member, my friend from Minnesota, for the hard work that they have put into today's bill.

As a new member of the committee, I have gotten to see firsthand the enormous amount of work that went into the product that we have before us today, and it is, frankly, a testament to the hard work of the Appropriations Committee staff that we have been able to get to this point.

I want to begin by expressing support for a number of really important provisions in the bill that I think are critical points of progress. In a very tough budget environment, this bill boosts funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, increasing the Federal commitment to addressing the needs of Indian Country.

Coming from timber country, I can say that there is also a very strong effort here to ensure that the Forest Service can responsibly increase harvest levels on our national forests, as well as supporting new tools, such as collaboratives, that have the potential to bring folks together in a way that reduces the litigation risk surrounding these projects.

Of course, I would love for us to be able include in this bill Mr. SIMPSON's legislation addressing wildfire disaster funding. I have heard from so many people in my neck of the woods just how important it is that we get this taken care of it.

The bill also provides essential resources to support recovery efforts in the Puget Sound. As both the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee know, this is big deal, both for our natural environment and for our economy; and I will continue working with them to make sure we are dedicating the needed resources for this critical effort.

Unfortunately, I will have to oppose the bill before us today. This bill comes in at $2 billion below the President's budget request. It would cut funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It fails to make needed investments in the National Park System and takes a meat axe to the Environmental Protection Agency and the programs that protect clean water.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, let me just say we need to come together in a bipartisan way to end sequestration, to remove these budget caps, and to work on bipartisan bills that make the investments our Nation needs to boost economic development and protect our natural resources for future generations.

I hope we do that, and I am eager to be a partner in doing that.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank you and the Appropriations Committee for its hard work on bringing this important legislation to the floor.

As you know, we have been working with your staff on an issue of great importance to the Port of Savannah, which services 40 percent of American consumers.

Since 1940, the National Park Service has leased a small parcel of land on

Cockspur Island within the Fort Pulaski National Monument to the Savannah Bar Pilots. The bar pilots help navigate large ships through the Savannah River channel to the port and have done so from Cockspur Island since as far as back as the 1730s.

In 2011, at the request of the Park Service, Congress passed legislation to change the relationship between the bar pilots and the Park Service. With enactment of the Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act, Public Law 112–69, the relationship between the bar pilots and Park Service was shifted from a series of special use permits to a noncompete lease of up to 10 years.

□ 1330

At the time of consideration of the legislation, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the annual lease fee for the bar pilots would be $25,000, a slight increase from their existing rate based on a 2008 appraisal conducted by the Park Service.

It has come to my attention that the Park Service is attempting to use passage of the legislation to increase the lease fee by as much as tenfold. This is extremely problematic because such an increase could threaten to force the bar pilots off Cockspur Island.

Simply given their history on the island, the idea of forcing the bar pilots to relocate is inappropriate, in and of itself. However, this is more troubling when you realize that pilotage services are required by law, so vessels are required to use their services to move in and out of the Port of Savannah, and there is no other known location from which pilots could operate more efficiently.

Moving the facility could lead to longer transit times for vessels, increased safety risk in foul weather, delays in ship movement, and greater fuel usage for pilots and vessels waiting to call on the Port of Savannah.

The resulting environmental and economic harm would significantly increase costs and could threaten growth at the Port of Savannah just as the Federal Government embarks on the construction phase of the $706 million Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

The legislation passed in 2011 was intended to create a long-term fix to the permitting issue, not to create an outlet by which the National Park Service could continuously raise fees to exorbitant levels.

Mr. Chairman, I would request your support of our efforts to find an equitable and timely resolution to this matter that reflects Congress' intent and establishes a process for ensuring that the pilots are charged only fair market value in line with previous National Park Service appraisals and that they are able to continue operating from their current location on Cockspur Island.

Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for bringing this matter to my attention. I share your concerns that this change could negatively impact the growth at the Port of Savannah just as work begins on the expansion project.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CALVERT. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

I would note that, in testimony before the Senate, National Park Service Associate Director Stephen Whitesell testified that the Savannah bar pilots have operated ''with virtually no adverse impact on park resources, on the visitor experience, or on park operations.''

The legislation that passed at the request of the Park Service in 2011 was supposed to simply improve the legal basis through which the bar pilots and the Park Service entered into a contract.

I am committed to continuing to work with you to find an equitable and timely solution to this matter that ensures the Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act is appropriately implemented and that the bar pilots are not forced to move from Cockspur Island.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your attention to this issue and for your service in shepherding this important legislation through the legislative process.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), a colleague of mine on the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman from Minnesota, Ranking Member MCCOLLUM, as well as Chairman KEN CALVERT of California for working with me to include important language relative to the National Park Service.

Specifically, the report addresses a threat to a significant part of the history of the region I represent, the Battle of Lake Erie that paved the way for America's expansion beyond 13 colonies, commemorated by Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial at Put-In-Bay, Ohio.

Perry's Memorial is at the heart of coastal tourism in Ohio, attracting 130,000 visitors just last year, and more than double as many people were reached through their educational activities.

Despite its popularity, this site has been unnecessarily targeted for consolidation. The idea that resources and, more importantly, management of this popular site would shift to a noncontiguous, smaller installation in a different State is both concerning and, frankly, quite puzzling.

Reporting requirements included with the bill are there to ensure that Perry's Memorial will continue operating as a stand-alone site.

I would also ask the chairman and ranking member to continue working with me to address this need moving forward to ensure that this misguided consolidation plan is stopped.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I am certainly happy to continue to work with the gentlewoman from Minnesota and to address her concerns as this process continues.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman very much, and I thank the ranking member.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The gentlewoman from Ohio has my commitment to work with the chairman to resolve it.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank both the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2822, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016.

This bill responsibly ensures the EPA's regulatory overreach is checked by Congress. Key provisions included will stop the EPA's most burdensome and damaging regulations and encourage opportunities for water infrastructure investment.

This bill ensures that the EPA cannot use resources to expand the definitions of the ''waters of the United States'' and ''fill material'' beyond what Congress wrote in the Clean Water Act. As the King v. Burwell case just taught us, this administration is eager to redefine words to suit their purposes. This House must stand up to them, and in this bill, we are.

These key provisions are excellent backstops for ensuring the EPA's clean water rule does not move forward in implementation because this rule is nothing more than a Federal power grab and a substantial expansion of Clean Water Act jurisdiction. Even the agencies implementing this rule have concerns about the clarity of its changes.

I am also pleased to see the committee supports an integrated planning approach to help communities affordably manage and meet their burdensome regulatory obligations under the Clean Water Act. Communities face enormous financial pressure to have quality services for its residents, including clean water. This approach can potentially save ratepayers millions of dollars while focusing clean water investments in a way that ensures the greatest water quality benefit.

Lastly, this bill encourages the implementation of the bipartisan pilot program, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, better known as WIFIA, that was authorized under WRRDA in 2014.

Provisions offered in this legislation will set the stage for EPA to implement WIFIA loans in fiscal years 2017 to provide credit assistance for water resource infrastructure projects and act as a complement to the major source of Federal investment in water

infrastructure, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, known as the SRF. This program will provide communities increased options and flexibility for funding their critical water infrastructure projects.

I thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM for recognizing the importance of these provisions and for putting together a bill that sets appropriate levels for agencies and programs.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), a thoughtful and valued member of the subcommittee.

Ms. PINGREE. I thank the ranking member for yielding me time and for the nice comments and the ability to work with her on the committee. I do appreciate the work of the Chair and the ranking member very much on this bill.

Mr. Chair, there are so many important programs that are funded in the Department of Interior Appropriations bill. I am proud to be on this committee and particularly to serve on this subcommittee.

Today's bill was written by a very good chairman in conjunction with a great ranking member, but at the end of the day, the funding levels are still too low. We cannot get bipartisan support on this bill when there are not enough dollars to go around. The reality is we need to get rid of the sequester, roll back the Budget Control Act caps, and pass these bills with funding levels that move our country forward, not backward.

As so many of my colleagues have stated, when adjusted for inflation, this bill provides less than the appropriated levels in FY 2005. That is just not sufficient for the vital programs in this bill, programs that monitor and protect the water we drink and the air we breathe and regulate the products we use.

There are some highlights in today's bill, such as the Bureau of Indian Education construction budget and the Forest Legacy program and the international forestry accounts, and I am glad to see them there, but there is so much more to be concerned about.

I am deeply disappointed in the cut to the Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species listing program, which is cut by 50 percent, and the overall Land and Water Conservation Fund cuts. This overall Land and Water Conservation Fund level is 20 percent less than last year, and that is very frustrating, knowing how important this program is to every single congressional district in the country.

I am concerned that programs such as the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program are funded at last year's level—and no higher—when we really need to understand the diseases that affect our fish and establish treatment options to protect them.

The U.S. Geological Survey that funds critical research programs and the monitoring of climate change, stormwater gauges, earthquake and weather research is also funded only at last year's level.

The National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities were denied the additional resources they requested, including funds that would have been used to increase programming for our veterans and wounded warriors.

For those of us in Maine who are so proud of our national park, Acadia National Park, and are strong supporters of parks across the country, there is simply not enough funding. There are not enough dollars for the improvements and maintenance that is needed in any given year, but particularly needed in this special centennial year.

The National Park centennial is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to highlight our parks and help millions of Americans who have not been to a national park before to see our Nation's greatest treasures.

Again, I recognize completely the position that this subcommittee and our other subcommittees have been in because of the Budget Control Act caps, but these programs deserve more.

I look forward to working with our chair and ranking member as this bill moves forward, to try to improve the areas that still need attention.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, it is my pleasures to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, today, I rise in support of H.R. 2822, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016.

It is no secret that the EPA is out of control. I think everybody across this great land knows that. A few weeks ago, the EPA issued their final rule to redefine waters of the U.S., completely ignoring the will of the House and stakeholders all across America.

Under this rule change, waters of the U.S. would now include smaller bodies of water and even some dry land. In fact, this new definition would extend the EPA's regulatory reach to seemingly any body of water, including that water puddled in your ditch after a rain storm. Yes, you heard me right.

I have heard from small-business owners, farmers, Realtors, and homebuilders in my district; and they are all concerned about the negative impact this rule could have—and rightly so. This rule is so broad that it could very well require them to get permission from a Federal bureaucrat before acting on their own property.

I commend Chairman CALVERT and the other members of the committee for including language in this appropriations bill to prohibit any funds from being used to implement this new rule.

I am proud to support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is left?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota has 9 minutes remaining.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a valued Member of this body.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlewoman, my friend, for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose this legislation for many reasons but, in particular, because it vastly underfunds the operation of our national parks, as well as many other important priorities.

Next August, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Our national parks are the envy of the world and serve as a model for their emphasis on conservation.

The National Park System accounts for more than 400 parks, heritage areas, monuments, and the historical sites; occupies more than 84 million acres of land in all 50 States; and is home to more than 1,000 endangered or threatened animal species. It is the responsibility of the National Park Service to preserve these sites so that future generations may enjoy them.

Our national parks tell a rich story of our stunning landscapes, natural wonders, and historic sites. From Yosemite National Park in California to Mammoth Cave—the world's longest known cave system, in Kentucky—to the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina, our national parks are an essential part of the American fabric and have been called America's best idea.

This bill appropriates approximately $2.33 billion for the operation of the National Park System over the next year. This is more than $187 million below the amount that was requested by the President. This account funds the critical needs of our National Park System, such as support services for new responsibilities within the system, resource stewardship, and facilities management.

The National Park System is a significant driver of economic activity. More than 275 million people visit our national parks each year. In 2013, it was estimated that every dollar invested in the National Park Service saw a return of $10.

We need to do better in ensuring that this economic engine and beacon of American tourism is operating at the highest level so that it can continue to fulfill its vital economic, environmental, and cultural role.

Ensuring that the National Park Service has proper funding for operation ensures that we are able to preserve the story of our country's development into the Nation that it is today.

In my home State of Rhode Island, the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, created last year after I sponsored legislation in the House in cooperation with Senator JACK REED in the Senate, marks the birthplace of the American industrial revolution.

Sites like old Slater Mill in Pawtucket and the Museum of Work and

Culture in Woonsocket help tell the story of how America became an economic superpower.

□ 1345

It embodies our Nation's economic, environmental, social, and cultural transformation. In the best spirit of the National Park Service, the Blackstone River Valley tells a nationally significant multidimensional story. It illustrates how a beautiful natural landscape and powerful waterways fueled the industrial revolution and launched far-reaching changes to our Nation's economy and social structure.

Blackstone serves only as one example of why it is essential that our national parks are properly funded and are able to operate in a manner in which millions of Americans continue to appreciate the storied history of our Nation.

It is long past time to end sequester and set spending levels that meet our current responsibilities to be good stewards of the environment and protect the natural beauty of America.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. CALVERT. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), a valued Member of this body.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

You know, my Republican colleagues have made no secret about the fact that they want to strangle the EPA and undermine its vital environmental work, but they make little mention of how this bill also threatens our national security.

I represent Las Vegas, which is the home of a number of critical radiation response programs, including one of the only two EPA mobile field labs that can quickly be deployed should a radiological incident occur anywhere in the West. They can process air, soil, and water samples.

Because of ongoing budget cuts led by the Republicans, however, EPA will soon be moving this unit to Montgomery, Alabama, and decommissioning its other mobile lab. That will leave the whole country with only one EPA radiation response lab, which will be located over 2,000 miles from Los Angeles, 2,600 miles from Seattle, and 1,800 miles from Las Vegas and the Nevada test site.

Now, Republicans may be willing to gamble our health and safety to satisfy their corporate friends, but I am not, and that is why I am asking my colleagues to vote against this legislation and fund our agencies at levels necessary to protect our national security.

Mr. CALVERT. I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I do not have an update on the Member that I am waiting for.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I will just say that this is a good bill. A lot of work has gone into it, and I would make sure that everyone votes for it because it is a fine bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chair, let me thank our Ranking Member, Congresswoman MCCOLLUM, for yielding, and for her tremendous leadership of this Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Interior and Environment bill before us would place health and safety of all Americans at risk. It dangerously cuts finding by $246 million from FY2015 levels and is $3.1 billion less than the President's FY2016 request.

The deep cuts to this bill would undermine our air quality, land, water and conservation funding and will have devastating impacts on all communities in my home state of California and across the country.

What's worse—this bill slashes funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by more than 700 million dollars—from FY2015 levels and funds the agency at more than a billion dollars less than the President's FY2016 request. These profound cuts would significantly harm the Clean Water Fund and the Safe Drinking Water Fund—critical programs that ensure the safety of our drinking water and our children.

It also includes $40 million in cuts to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPP), which would weaken the National Park Services' (NPS) ability to preserve sites significant in the Civil Rights Movement. This includes sites like the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, where many of us participated in the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Furthermore, there are also egregious policy riders in this bill that would block clean air protections, such as the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

Too many families, particularly those in low-income, vulnerable communities, already suffer from poor air quality because of dirty carbon pollution.

We know that communities of color are disproportionately affected by pollution-related illnesses, including asthma. According to the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, one in six African American and one in nine Latino children suffer from asthma.

There are other toxic policy riders that would block the protection of our imperiled wildlife under the Endangered Species Act, like the Greater Sage Grouse population.

The Endangered Species Act is the only law that has safeguarded more than 2,000 plants and wildlife from extinction. This law enjoys broad support from nearly 85 percent of Americans. And yet here we are again, with a bill that seeks to undermine decades of, animal protection and runs counter to vast public support.

Mr. Chair, we need to continue to fight to defend our environment, address climate change, and make real, meaningful impacts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions so we protect our environment, our children and our future.

Unfortunately, the bill before us does just the opposite.

I hope that as this process moves forward, we can address the insufficient funding allocations and backwards policy riders that would harm every American and put our precious environment at risk.

The CHAIR. All time for general date has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2822

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to section 1010(a) of Public Law 96–487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), $1,015,046,000, to remain available until expended, including all such amounts as are collected from permit processing fees, as authorized but made subject to future appropriation by section 35(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191), except that amounts from permit processing fees may be used for any bureau-related expenses associated with the processing of oil and gas applications for permits to drill and related use of authorizations; of which $3,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 2016 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost-shared projects supporting conservation of Bureau lands; and such funds shall be advanced to the Foundation as a lump-sum grant without regard to when expenses are incurred.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is really relatively simple. It takes $1 million from the Bureau of Land Management's management of lands account and inserts it right back into the account with the intent of identifying unused land for potential sale to Americans.

The service charges, deposits, and forfeitures account already has the authority to dispose of land under the Bureau of Land Management, but is not specifically appropriated funds.

Today, Mr. Chairman, the United States Government owns and controls 640 million acres of American land. This is 27 percent of the entire landmass in the United States. If you take all of the countries in Western Europe, the United States Government, Uncle Sam, owns that much land and more.

In this poster to my left, the red portions of the poster identify land that is owned by Uncle Sam, the Federal Government. The white portions, of course, are land that is owned by private entities. Included in the red area is Alaska. The red area represents 27 percent of the landmass in the United States. A lot of this land is unused, and it is not even managed by the Federal Government. It is just sitting in these different parts of the country.

This amendment is very simple. It tells the Bureau of Land Management to study the possibility of selling some of this land back to Americans. Let Americans own America, not all of it. We are not talking about the national parks, the national forests. We are not talking about Yosemite. We are talking about the unused abandoned land in the United States, but yet it is still owned by this Federal Government.

That is what this amendment does; it is to require a study take place.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that this amendment be adopted.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE of Texas).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 2, line 20, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

On page 62, line 8, insert ''(reduced by $12,307,693)'' after the dollar amount.

On page 75, line 14, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment, along with my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and my friend from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

This amendment will address an energy infrastructure issue that faces our Nation today, as well as continuing regulatory overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency.

We all know that the American shale revolution has dramatically improved our energy security at home and our economic opportunity for hard-working Americans. The United States is now the number one producer of oil and gas in the world, yet we are in the midst of new challenges due to a lack of appropriate infrastructure to bring those resources to our consumers.

Also, the EPA has recently reported that methane emissions from oil and gas wells are down 79 percent since 2005, and total methane emissions from natural gas systems are down 11 percent since that same year. However, the administration intends to propose another regulation that only results in more bureaucratic red tape and higher energy costs. This does nothing to address the underlying issue.

There is a better solution, which not only achieves lower greenhouse gas emissions, but also improves the outcomes for the American taxpayer.

My amendment would increase the amount of funds made available to both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service by $5 million each to help expedite the approval of additional pipeline infrastructure that would more efficiently and more cleanly deliver our taxpayer-owned resources to consumers. This will ensure that the BLM and the Forest Service have the appropriate resources to permit rights-of-way for gathering lines on Federal lands. This increase would be offset by a very modest reduction of less than one-half of 1 percent to the EPA environmental programs and management accounts.

It is important that we safely bring these natural resources to market using the latest low-emissions, cutting-edge technology. Permitting and constructing this critical infrastructure is beneficial to the environment since natural gas could be transported, processed, and sold to consumers instead of being vented or flared, which creates the greenhouse gas problems.

Finally, constructing more pipelines furthers our country's ongoing energy renaissance, while creating more jobs and growing our economy. A recent API study shows over 1.1 million jobs on average per year and over $1.1 trillion in capital investments will be generated by updating our domestic midstream infrastructure.

So, in a nutshell, my amendment provides three great outcomes: first, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions; second, it provides critical infrastructure to safely transport taxpayer-owned resources to consumer markets; and third, it promotes good-paying American jobs for these hard-working American families.

I also want to take a second to compliment and thank my friend from California (Mr. CALVERT) and all of the subcommittee members and all of the subcommittee staff for such a great job on this Interior Appropriations bill.

I urge our Members to support my amendment and to support the underlying bill.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLORES. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. I like the amendment. I would accept that amendment.

Mr. FLORES. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would cut $12 million from the Environmental Protection Agency program and shift $5 million to the Bureau of Land Management and $5 million to the Forest Service.

Now, I know cutting the EPA is an easy target for many of my colleagues across here on the other side of the aisle, but I want to assure my colleagues and understand if this amendment were to be adopted, this account funds program is important to both sides of the aisle. For example, it includes permitting for construction projects across the country; toxic risk prevention, part of the successful brownfields program; pesticide licensing; indoor air quality; radiation.

Quite frankly, the EPA's work goes beyond the political talking point of various regulations, and it is necessary to keep this valuable Agency able to do the functions it needs to do to protect public health.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I want to make sure that everybody knows that this cuts one-half of 1 percent from the EPA to hopefully help stop them from pursuing a regulatory scheme where the industry is already working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and then it takes that money and puts it into accounts where we actually achieve greenhouse gas reductions and we bring taxpayer-owned resources to market in a clean, safe, and efficient way.

□ 1400

My amendment accomplishes all of those things: reduces greenhouse gas emissions, better jobs, and better infrastructure for hard-working Americans.

Again, I ask all Members to support my amendment and to support the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $14,000,000)''.

Page 18, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $11,611,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, in listening to the previous debate, I would certainly agree we have made great strides in America in accessing oil and gas, so much so that we have now become almost energy independent, all for the good. All of that has happened in the last 7 to 8 years, and we are thankful for that.

However, this appropriation has more money than needed. The administration has asked for about $32 million less.

I would like my colleagues to take a look at where we really do need to spend some money. This amendment that I am proposing deals with this. This is California's water situation today. The great Central Valley of California is rapidly depleting its aquifers. The water resources that agriculture and communities depend upon are rapidly depleting.

This amendment would move about $11,611,000 to the USGS, to Geological Survey, for the purposes of studying the aquifers of California. Now, keep in mind that the State of California voters approved a $7 billion bond act of which a good portion of that money is for underground aquifer storage.

We have to have the science; we have to have the engineering to go with it, and this amendment would provide the additional money that the USGS needs in order to do the surveys and the engineering and understanding the geology of those areas where we might be able to have the aquifers replenished. That is what it is all about.

This leaves plenty of money behind for the purposes that the committee has identified in the approval and the permitting of mineral and gas and oil resources.

I see my colleague from California, who is well aware of these issues, including aquifers in the San Fernando and the Santa Anna aquifer area, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MARCHANT). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I don't necessarily oppose where the gentleman wants to go; I just oppose the offset right now because, under the budget scenario that we are operating under, we obviously have cut back a lot of these agencies somewhat.

I am sympathetic to the job that the United States Geological Survey has. As you know, in California, we probably have the most adjudicated water rights in the world. I will work on this in the future as this process moves forward.

If it is necessary, after some conversations with USGS, that they need additional resources, I will be happy to work with the gentleman to attempt to do so, but this offset, we could not accept at this time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman.

Certainly, the chairman understands the issues of water in California, as well as anyone does, and also understands that, in order for us to meet the current and certainly any future drought, we are going to have to use the aquifers, which will require the services and the knowledge and capability of the U.S. Geological Survey to fully comprehend the potential that the various aquifers have throughout the State, those in southern California, as well as the Central Valley and coastal areas.

I would be delighted working with the chairman as the process moves along and see if we might be able to find sufficient money and address the specific needs of aquifer surveys by the USGS. I look forward to working with the gentleman on that.

Rather than taking a ''no'' vote on this and going to a vote, I heard the gentleman suggest that we can work together and quite possibly solve this problem.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $25,325,000)''.

Page 132, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $25,325,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman CALVERT and the ranking members for the fine work they have done on H.R. 2822. I think, overall, it is a great bill.

What my amendment does is move over $25 million from the Bureau of Land Management's law enforcement activities and transfer that money into the deficit savings account.

Just a brief cap, BLM, Bureau of Land Management, has a force of roughly 200 uniformed officers and 70 criminal investigators on staff enforcing a wide range of laws. In addition, the FBI has 35,000 agents; the Department of Homeland Security has over 70,000 enforcement agents; the IRS has over 3,700 criminal investigation employees, including 2,600 special agents; the ATF has over 2,500 special agents; and the DEA has over 5,000.

With just those five agencies, there are over 115,000 national law agents in just these five agencies. I feel that we have enough Federal agencies to deal with the problem to enforce the laws on the books, especially when we are talking about the violations on Federal lands.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would cut $25 million from the Bureau of Land Management program and put the savings into the so-called spending reduction account.

The gentleman pointed out that he plans on reducing that amount on law enforcement in the Bureau of Land Management. The employees who are out doing this work are already overstretched and find themselves sometimes in very dangerous positions.

The BLM is the caretaker of our Nation's public lands. They protect one-eighth of the country. I think that we should make sure that BLM law enforcement is able to do their job, do their job safely, come home to their families, and protect America's resources.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOHO. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman knows, I am a westerner. As was pointed out by Mr. POE, a significant amount of the West is in BLM control. In dealing with the BLM over the years, they have a lot of land mass that they deal with, and they also work with the Native American tribes and others dealing with really a restricted number of law enforcement.

We have commented and criticized about how well they operate, but I would hope that we didn't have to do this because there is a considerable need for some law enforcement in those vast areas in which the Federal Government owns throughout the Western United States.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I agree with that. This amendment is about priorities.

I think with the state of the economy that we are on both sides, I don't have to remind people that we have the debt ceiling coming up, and we are short of money; we have the highway trust fund that is going to come up again at the end of July, and we are short of money. I believe that the Federal Government has enough agents and more than enough debt for sure.

I just encourage people to vote in favor of this amendment.

We get people from our district, and they talk to us about what happened out in Nevada with the Cliven Bundy case. When you have the Bureau of Land Management with SWAT capabilities showing up like they do, we get asked: Why are agencies like this having that kind of tactical gear? Why do they have that kind of capacity?

This is not to weaken them in a sense, and we do have to patrol those areas. I just think, at this point in time, that $25 million would serve our debt.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, this bill already is $246 million below the FY 2015-enacted level. This amendment only causes further damage.

Let's look at what has been happening over the past decade. As the funding has decreased, we know from committee hearings that the demands on the BLM have increased. There are more oil and gas leases to manage to make sure that they are properly protected.

These issues that we deal with in the Bureau of Land Management, also with law enforcement, is working directly with the public sometimes who are out recreating and accessing these lands.

I would just like, once again, to reiterate my strong opposition to cutting law enforcement for BLM.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, in lieu of what the chairman is saying, I will withdraw the amendment at this time if we can have a serious discussion about the debt before September.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,010,000)''.

Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,902,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, this bill deals with the very real problem for delivering water to southern California.

Those people who are familiar with the way in which the California water system works, water flows down the Sacramento River—I will just put this up here—water comes down the Sacramento River from the north and up the San Joaquin from the south.

It all gets to the delta where the massive pumps at Tracy pick the water up, put it in the canals, and send it to the San Joaquin Valley and then on to southern California, Los Angeles, Orange County, and other cities in that massive urban area.

There is a problem in the delta, a lot of problems. One of the problems is aquatic plants. The delta is being totally overrun by water hyacinths. Other parts of the United States and the West are also finding these invasive water aquatic plants plugging their pumps, reducing water supply, eliminating opportunities for boating, recreation, fishing, and the like.

What this amendment does is address that problem by adding $3,902,000 to the aquatic habitat and species conservation fund, thereby allowing the Federal agencies to work with the State and local agencies to attack the aquatic plants.

Specifically in the delta, those who want to have more water flowing south to the San Joaquin Valley and southern California's great metropolitan areas, including Orange County, ought to be in favor of unplugging the pumps and getting the water hyacinths reduced in the delta.

That is what we would do. It is a very real problem; it is a problem that exists today, and it is also money that comes from some 32 million more dollars in this Bureau of Land Management oil and gas permitting account than the President thought necessary. Surely, there is a little bit of room to move around so that southern California can have the water that it needs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the gentleman is attempting to do, again, on the offset.

Right now, the BLM is involved in this issue of the sage-grouse in the West. We, in effect, gave both the BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service additional resources in order for us not to be in a position to list the sage-grouse so as to make sure that we do what is necessary in the sage ecosystem.

At the same time, we have plussed up conservation accounts within the Fish and Wildlife Service for those types of invasive species. We have a number of invasive species, not just in the plant world, but, obviously, we have this invasive clam, as you mentioned, that is stuffing up the quagga mussel, and that is causing disruptions throughout the West.

I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do. It is just that we are under the budget allocations we have. We have done what we can in both of these accounts, which is to do good work on conservation and to make sure we conserve species and get rid of bad species throughout the United States. I would hope the gentleman would withdraw his amendment, and I will work with him in the future on the other issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, the chairman is quite correct. We do have a problem. We do have quagga mussels. We have this particular one, the water hyacinths, and there are other aquatic invasive species that are causing havoc throughout the United States—certainly, the quagga mussel in the East, along the Great Lakes, Chicago and the rest—and certainly in California. The energy systems at Hoover Dam, on the Colorado River, are impeded by quagga mussels, and there is the delta with water hyacinths, and there are other lakes and streams throughout the West.

If we let this problem continue to grow, we are going to continue to have less water and less power available to us. This is just under $4 million coming out of an account that was plussed up by some $32 million over and above what the administration thought necessary. I would remind all of us that the administration has done a rather good job on permitting, so much so that we now have the greatest production of oil and gas ever in the United States, so much so that we are on the verge of becoming energy sufficient.

Do we need another $32 million to do what is already being done, or would that $4 million of that $32 million be better spent in dealing with the very real problem of trying to get water to the pumps so it can go south to Orange County and to Los Angeles and to San Joaquin County?

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you, but I am going to ask for a vote on this one.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, in closing, the plus up in the BLM account was primarily to help resolve the issue in 11 States involving the sage-grouse, which is close to a listing, and we have a plus up in the Fish and Wildlife Service accounts to recognize a real problem that hits 11 Western States.

We do not underestimate the problems in the West as they involve the drought, and we are going to continue to work on that. Again, I would oppose this based upon the offset.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, $39,696,000 is for Mining Law Administration program operations, including the cost of administering the mining

claim fee program, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from mining claim maintenance fees and location fees that are hereby authorized for fiscal year 2016, so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than $1,015,046,000, and $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities.

LAND ACQUISITION

For expenses necessary to carry out sections 205, 206, and 318(d) of Public Law 94–579, including administrative expenses and acquisition of lands or waters, or interests therein, $7,250,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GUINTA

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $7,000,000)''.

Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $11,000,000)''.

Page 9, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 16, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 62, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 77, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Page 105, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Mr. GUINTA (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from New Hampshire and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill in order to increase funding by $16 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Since 1977, LWCF receipts have been collected annually to specifically fund Federal land acquisition, conserve threatened and endangered species, and provide grants to States. However, more than $18 billion has been syphoned from the LWCF trust fund since the program's inception in 1965, diverted from their original conservation purpose. Despite a history of underfunding, the LWCF remains a crucial Federal program to conserve our Nation's land, water, historic, and recreational heritage.

As those in my home State of New Hampshire know, we are lucky to call one of the most pristine ecological environments in the Nation our home, and we understand firsthand LWCF's impact on both our State's natural resources and on our access to hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities. The LWCF is also an essential tool to expand public lands and to protect national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, wild and scenic river corridors, national scenic and historic trails, the Bureau of Land Management lands, and other Federal areas.

I applaud the Appropriations Committee for its hard work on this important bill as it does prevent harmful executive overreach, reduces regulatory burdens on job creators and local communities, and it finds important savings for taxpayers. I certainly urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill, but given the importance of the LWCF programs across the country and in New Hampshire, I believe more robust funding for this particular program is important for the reasons I have stated.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, as the gentleman knows, the bill already provides $87 million for other land acquisition. Our intent was to needle a Federal land acquisition program that has strong support in the East—certainly, in New Hampshire—and lukewarm support in the West, where the government already owns a significant amount of real estate in the Western United States. When the conference begins on this bill with the Senate, Congress will exercise its power of the purse by selecting projects from the President's budget to improve recreational access that have strong local, State, and congressional support.

I will work with the gentleman. I know he is a strong advocate of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but this amendment might leave advocates on both sides of the aisle with some difficult and unnecessary choices. Therefore, I ask the gentleman to consider withdrawing his amendment, knowing I will be working with him in the future to see if we can't be of assistance through the conference process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman, and I look forward to working with him on this particular issue as it is important and critical to New Hampshire.

I recognize the differences between the East and the West and the challenges that we do face. Certainly, I support, again, the underlying bill, and I look forward to working with the chairman on this very important issue in New Hampshire.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3. line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, to everyone here, this is one of those amendments that really becomes a talking point amendment, but this is something we need to talk about. Our colleague, a moment ago, raised the question of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In addition to the words that he spoke, we need to be aware that, later this next month—in about 100 days, actually. I guess that is more than a month—the Land and Water Conservation Fund is going to disappear. It needs to be reauthorized, and I see on the floor here today the men and women who are in a position to make that happen.

We really cannot lose this program. For example, there are projects in the Sequoia National Forest, which is in the majority leader's district, that were funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. There is a Galloway Park playground expansion in Clark County, Ohio. I think we know in whose district that is—the Speaker's district. The chairman of the subcommittee here is from San Bernardino. There is the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and there is a Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway. I am sure the chairman is familiar with that parkway. These are all Land and Water Conservation projects that, over the years, have been in place. We have 100 days, and we have got some work to do here.

Is the money available? Yes. There is $18 billion in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, should it continue to exist, that has not been spent. It is sitting there. Well, I guess there is an IOU there. Actually, the cash isn't there. There is an IOU because, over the years, we have diverted money from the original purpose and law to transfer that money over to all kinds of projects. Perhaps some of it even went to debt reduction. Nonetheless, it has not been used for its intended purpose and legal purpose, which is for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Every year, over $900 million of royalties comes in from the oil and gas and energy companies for the public resources that they mine or pump out of the earth. Only a small fraction of that money has ever gone to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I want all of us to pay attention to this extraordinarily important program—a program that I was able to work with when I was Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior, overseeing the projects in all of

our districts—parks, local parks, some of the big national parks, including national forests, such as the one in Mr. MCCARTHY's district.

Why are we not moving aggressively to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund? Why is it that, every year, we deny the public, whether it is a playground or a swimming pool or a park expansion playground in Ohio, the opportunity for better lives in their own communities?

I do not understand, and I don't think that if any of us were to think about this for any amount of time that we would not say, yes, let's reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Let's not let it expire. Let's make sure that the money that was intended for it—the royalties from the resources of this great Nation—be spent on providing for the projects that all of America can enjoy. That is what it is all about.

I don't know if I will go to a vote on this one, but I have, in my view here, leaders in the House who really have the power and, I think, the obligation to make sure the LWCF, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, is reauthorized and that we adequately fund it. I achieved, at least, my own goal of talking about something that I believe to be important.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

For expenses necessary for management, protection, and development of resources and for construction, operation, and maintenance of access roads, reforestation, and other improvements on the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, on other Federal lands in the Oregon and California land-grant counties of Oregon, and on adjacent rights-of-way; and acquisition of lands or interests therein, including existing connecting roads on or adjacent to such grant lands; $110,602,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That 25 percent of the aggregate of all receipts during the current fiscal year from the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands is hereby made a charge against the Oregon and California land-grant fund and shall be transferred to the General Fund in the Treasury in accordance with the second paragraph of subsection (b) of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181f).

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

For rehabilitation, protection, and acquisition of lands and interests therein, and improvement of Federal rangelands pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751), notwithstanding any other Act, sums equal to 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year under sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315b, 315m) and the amount designated for range improvements from grazing fees and mineral leasing receipts from Bankhead-Jones lands transferred to the Department of the Interior pursuant to law, but not less than $10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $600,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

For administrative expenses and other costs related to processing application documents and other authorizations for use and disposal of public lands and resources, for costs of providing copies of official public land documents, for monitoring construction, operation, and termination of facilities in conjunction with use authorizations, and for rehabilitation of damaged property, such amounts as may be collected under Public Law 94–579 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185), to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of section 305(a) of Public Law 94–579 (43 U.S.C. 1735(a)), any moneys that have been or will be received pursuant to that section, whether as a result of forfeiture, compromise, or settlement, if not appropriate for refund pursuant to section 305(c) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1735(c)), shall be available and may be expended under the authority of this Act by the Secretary to improve, protect, or rehabilitate any public lands administered through the Bureau of Land Management which have been damaged by the action of a resource developer, purchaser, permittee, or any unauthorized person, without regard to whether all moneys collected from each such action are used on the exact lands damaged which led to the action: *Provided further*, That any such moneys that are in excess of amounts needed to repair damage to the exact land for which funds were collected may be used to repair other damaged public lands.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

In addition to amounts authorized to be expended under existing laws, there is hereby appropriated such amounts as may be contributed under section 307 of Public Law 94–579 (43 U.S.C. 1737), and such amounts as may be advanced for administrative costs, surveys, appraisals, and costs of making conveyances of omitted lands under section 211(b) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1721(b)), to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Land Management may carry out the operations funded under this Act by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities, including with States. Appropriations for the Bureau shall be available for purchase, erection, and dismantlement of temporary structures, and alteration and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities to which the United States has title; up to $100,000 for payments, at the discretion of the Secretary, for information or evidence concerning violations of laws administered by the Bureau; miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities authorized or approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed $10,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding Public Law 90–620 (44 U.S.C. 501), the Bureau may, under cooperative cost-sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share the cost of printing either in cash or in services, and the Bureau determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That projects to be funded pursuant to a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of the project may be carried out by the Bureau on a reimbursable basis. Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Bureau or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, $1,220,343,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That not to exceed $10,257,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii)).

□ 1430

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLAWSON OF FLORIDA

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I have an amendment for consideration, please.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,200,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief and also try to improve just a little bit on a very good bill.

My congratulations to the team and to the ranking member and to the chairman.

Included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife resource management account is funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System. By my amendment, we ask that an extra $1 million be added to this account. We are offsetting the increase by taking $1 million from the $2.4 billion Environmental Protection Agency programs and management account, hardly a stretch.

The National Wildlife Refuge System has grown to over 563 national wildlife refuge and 38 wetland management districts, 150 million acres in all. We have several of these national wildlife refuges in my district or near my district, including J.N. ''Ding'' Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge outside of Naples.

The ''Ding'' Darling National Wildlife Refuge, in particular, sets itself apart as a leading contributor to the economy, with 816,000 visitors a year. Importantly, my hero, my mother, loves to go there, and I love to take her there in the autumn of her lifetime. I ask my fellow Members to support this

$1 million adjustment to these national treasures.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I think this is a good amendment. I certainly support it and would ask Members to vote ''aye'' on the amendment.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON of Florida).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; $13,144,000, to remain available until expended.

LAND ACQUISITION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, (16 U.S.C. 460l-4 et seq.), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, $27,500,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated for specific land acquisition projects may be used to pay for any administrative overhead, planning or other management costs.

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535), $50,095,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), $13,228,000.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), $35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), $3,660,000, to remain available until expended.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), $9,561,000, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, $59,195,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, $4,084,000 is for a competitive grant program for Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That $5,987,000 is for a competitive grant program to implement approved plans for States, territories, and other jurisdictions and at the discretion of affected States, the regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, after deducting $10,071,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 percent of the total costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: *Provided further*, That any amount apportioned in 2016 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, 2017, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in 2018, in the manner provided herein.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed $1 for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading ''United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management'' and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

For expenses necessary for the management, operation, and maintenance of areas and facilities administered by the National Park Service and for the general administration of the National Park Service, $2,327,811,000, of which $10,001,000 for planning and interagency coordination in support of Everglades restoration and $96,961,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects for constructed assets shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLAWSON OF FLORIDA

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert ''increased by $1,000,000''.

Page 14, line 10, after the second dollar amount, insert ''increased by $1,000,000''.

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''reduced by $1,250,000''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, by this amendment, we are asking for an additional $1 million to be put towards Everglades restoration to be paid for with a decrease in the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental programs and management account.

I first want to say that I am grateful to my Democratic colleague from Florida, PATRICK MURPHY, who has supported me on this and repeatedly supports our important Everglades initiatives.

Shortly after retiring from the private sector 3 years ago, I took a walk in the Gulf with my father. When we waded into the Gulf, we got to about knee depth of water, and we looked down and we couldn't see our toes because that was a bad year for all the discharges into the Gulf of Mexico.

So my dad said to me: Can you do something about this? Just get involved.

I said: Dad, what can a retired auto parts executive do to help this situation?

He said: If you get involved, you will figure out what to do.

From there, I got involved in local matters and then eventually came here to Congress.

In Florida, we are indeed blessed to have an extensive network of over 1.5 million acres of freshwater and saltwater, known as Everglades National Park. It is the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in the United States, and it serves as home to numerous beautiful species, including a number of endangered species. For these reasons, we must guarantee the Everglades continue to reflect our shared values of healthy landscape through effective stewardship and conscientious management, and that is why I offer this amendment today.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. I know he has been a champion for the Everglades. It is certainly a concern of this committee. I want to get out there and look at those pythons in the Everglades. I understand they are all over the place.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. There are too many of them.

Mr. CALVERT. Yes, too many, that is the problem.

I would be happy to support this amendment. I would urge an ''aye'' vote when it comes up.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SEWELL OF ALABAMA

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,500,000)''.

Page 14, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,500,000)''.

Page 15, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,500,000)''.

Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Alabama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the subcommittee chairman, as well as the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the ranking member, for their hard work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor and, most importantly, for working with me and my staff to propose this amendment and to make sure that it is budget neutral.

On the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, we need to invest in the National Park Service sites associated with the civil rights movement, not cut necessary funding. Seminal locations such as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site tell the story of the struggle for civil rights and voting rights in this country. It is our obligation to preserve these prominent locations for future generations.

My amendment increases funding by $2.5 million for the documentation and preservation of civil rights history as well as restores $2.5 million for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic sites on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges, and $2 million additional for competitive grants for the civil rights initiative to preserve sites of the civil rights movement.

Institutions such as Miles College in Alabama and Tougaloo College in Mississippi served as a base for students who were involved in the civil rights movement. Some projects that would benefit would include digitizing the archives at places like Tuskegee University, where the Tuskegee Airmen as well as the records and papers of Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver reside. Other sites that would benefit from this funding include the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., the Selma Interpretive Center at Selma University, the Selma to Montgomery Interpretive Center at Alabama State University, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park in Maryland.

Mr. Chairman, over the last 5 years, as the Representative of the Seventh Congressional District and a proud product of Selma, Alabama, my native hometown, it has been an honor to not only represent this wonderful district, but to protect the legacy of those that came before us and to make sure that the history of the movement is preserved for future generations.

It was my high honor on March 7, 2015, to welcome President and Mrs. Obama as well as President and Mrs. George W. Bush, along with 100 Members of Congress and the Senate, Republican and Democrat, to my hometown of Selma, where we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. Let us try to preserve that history and continue to show our commitment to the legacy of JOHN LEWIS and those brave Freedom Fighters who changed the Nation as well as this world by their quest for equality and justice for all.

I want to again thank the subcommittee chair, Mr. CALVERT, and I want to thank the ranking member, Ms. MCCOLLUM, for their dedication and commitment to this preservation. I urge my colleagues to support the Sewell amendment and commit ourselves to the task of preserving the civil rights and voting rights.

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

Mr. CALVERT. I claim time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman for a fine amendment and the great work that she has done working with both the majority and minority staff in fashioning this amendment.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALVERT. I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for the generosity of yielding to me.

I also support the Sewell amendment to increase funding for the President's civil rights initiative. I remain a strong supporter of the President's initial request for $50 million for the civil rights initiative. While the gentlewoman's amendment would increase funding by $7 million, we still have a long way to go to get the adequate funding for these very important sacred places, I might add, in our Nation's history, to protect them.

I appreciate the majority's willingness to accept this amendment, and I thank the sponsor for offering it.

I thank the gentleman, once again, for his kindness in yielding.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I just want to again reiterate my thanks. In this commemorative year of the Selma to Montgomery March and so many pivotal moments, including our upcoming 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act, I thank you for your commitment to making sure that we preserve these wonderful sites for future generations.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chair, I wish to join my colleague from Alabama, Congresswoman SEWELL, to support this amendment, which would restore necessary funding for preserving our nation's Civil Rights history.

This amendment would increase funding by $2.5 million for documentation and preservation of Civil Rights history, as well as restoring $2.5 million for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic sites on the campuses of HBCUs. In my own state of Maryland, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Dorchester is currently putting together educational programming in conjunction with the Harriet Tubman State Park, which is slated to open later this year.

This National Monument is an important part of telling our American story—especially in light of the fact that, currently, only 26 of our nation's 460 national parks have a primary focus on African-American history.

It is our responsibility as federal representatives to come together in order to preserve the history of our nation and its people. We must keep this commitment to preserve the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, and the land and structures that will keep that legacy alive.

I encourage all of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000) (reduced by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will help ensure that all communities are able to participate in decisions that shape the National Park Service. Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people—regardless of race, color, national origin, or income—with respect to our Nation's environmental laws and policies. This amendment represents an important step towards that goal.

The NPS has a robust planning, environment, and public comment database and Web site, known as PEPC.

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This Web site is used for consultation and providing information on planning issues such as management plans, construction projects, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements. This Web site is how the users of the National Park Service can participate in NPS decisionmaking.

Unfortunately, however, PEPC is only available in English—no Spanish, none of the Asian languages spoken by the fastest growing segment of our population, and none of the indigenous languages of our Native American brothers and sisters.

To address this shortcoming, my amendment will provide $1 million to update PEPC. This funding will provide translation of the contents of PEPC to the public, the ability of the public to provide input into the PEPC process in the most commonly spoken languages, and informing affected communities of the improvements.

Mr. Chairman, America is becoming more and more diverse every day, and our land management agencies must adapt to it. It is critical that new and growing community can access our public lands and services. They are the new users and stewards that Federal land management agencies such as the National Park Service must engage as it prepares for its centennial.

To reach these Americans, the NPS will need improved tools to clearly communicate with people who may struggle to comprehend materials in English. That is exactly what my amendment intends to accomplish. This measure will help the Park Service and the Department of the Interior to achieve their performance benchmarks.

One of the key measures of the Department's environmental justice outcomes is outreach to minority and underserved communities. Executive Order 13116 states that all Federal agencies shall provide access to services for persons with limited English proficiency. By offering a Web interface in multiple languages, NPS will increase its relevance to minority communities and help the Department of the Interior to make progress towards this very important requirement.

Mr. Chairman, we can all agree that engaging the public on important decisions that affect their communities is a linchpin of our system of government. When all communities are afforded access to the decisionmaking process, we improve the outcomes of those decisions and we strengthen our democracy.

I hope all Members will join me in supporting this critical amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, after line 14, insert the following:

EMERGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS

For expenses necessary for emergency infrastructure repairs related to the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog, $11,500,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to provide $11.5 billion to fund emergency infrastructure repairs related to the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog.

Mr. Chair, earlier this month, the National Park Service, at the recommendation of the Department of Transportation, took the precautionary measure of closing two lanes on the iconic Arlington Memorial Bridge, one of the most important entrances to the Nation's Capital and a major artery for many of my constituents commuting to work every day.

The crisis of the Memorial Bridge, whose replacement will cost a startling $250 million, demonstrates the degradation of park infrastructure throughout the country. It also shows the extent of the backlog and the need to provide funds to ensure reliability for the economy as well as the safety of the public.

The backlog has also grown because of a steady decline in the construction account. Over the last decade, there has been a 62 percent decline, $227 million in today's dollars. The Park Service receives only 58 cents out of every dollar needed just to keep the backlog from growing.

Mr. Chair, the United States is the richest country in the history of mankind. We are the democratic leader, the military leader, the human rights leader, the financial leader of all the world. Can we not also be the investment leader?

This country needs to be the country that invests in our infrastructure today for our children and our grandchildren tomorrow.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of increased funding for the National Park Service in order to address the deferred maintenance backlog.

Despite its significant and multifaceted contributions to our country, the National Park Service budget has been shrinking, compromising its ability to adequately protect our treasured national history. Shrinking appropriations and increasing wear and tear on aging infrastructure has led to a maintenance backlog of approximately $11.5 billion dollars, including dilapidated visitor centers, unmaintained trails, and failing water treatment facilities.

More than half of the maintenance backlog, approximately $6 billion, is comprised of transportation projects that require funding through the Highway Trust Fund, not the Park Service. The Arlington Memorial Bridge, which is so important to our nation, connecting the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery, is so badly corroded that it must be partially shut down for six to nine months. In fact, the estimated total cost of repairs for the bridge is more than the entire annual allocation to the Park Service from the Highway Trust Fund.

This trend is completely unsustainable if we want our children and grandchildren to have the same opportunity to visit and enjoy some of our nation's most iconic sites.

At recent hearings on the Natural Resources Committee, I have heard many of my colleagues express their frustrations with the maintenance backlog. This is our opportunity to address the problem, but we are once again kicking the can down the pothole riddled, crumbling road.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, which will bring even more visitors to our parks. I urge my colleagues to not only address the maintenance backlog at the National Park Service, but to come together and pass a long-term fix for the Highway Trust Fund so that we can address the maintenance backlog.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill.

The amendment is not in order under section 3(d)(3) of House Resolution 5, 114th Congress, which states:

''It shall not be in order to consider an amendment to a general appropriations bill proposing a net increase in budget authority in the bill unless considered en bloc with another amendment or amendments proposing an equal or greater decrease in such budget authority pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI.''

The amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill in violation of such section.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of increased funding for the National Park Service in order to address the deferred maintenance backlog.

Despite its significant and multifaceted contributions to our country, the National Park Service budget has been shrinking, compromising its ability to adequately protect our treasured national history.

Shrinking appropriations and increasing wear and tear on aging infrastructure has led——

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman must confine her remarks to the point of order.

Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, the Interior Subcommittee has done its best to invest in parks, but given its insufficient allocation, this was the only meaningful way for the very obvious need for the $11.5 billion for infrastructure.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from California makes a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia violates section 3(d)(3) of House Resolution 5.

Section 3(d)(3) establishes a point of order against an amendment proposing a net increase in budget authority in the pending bill.

As persuasively asserted by the gentleman from California, the amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill. Therefore, the point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out recreation programs, natural programs, cultural programs, heritage partnership programs, environmental compliance and review, international park affairs, and grant administration, not otherwise provided for, $62,467,000.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary in carrying out the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), $60,910,000, to be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which $500,000 is for competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks associated with communities currently underrepresented, as determined by the Secretary, and of which $4,500,000 is for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement: *Provided*, That such competitive grants shall be made without imposing the matching requirements in Section 102(a)(3) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(a)(3)).

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvements, repair, or replacement of physical facilities, including modifications authorized by section 104 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r-8), $139,555,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any project initially funded in fiscal year 2016 with a future phase indicated in the National Park Service 5–Year Line Item Construction Plan, a single procurement may be issued which includes the full scope of the project: *Provided further*, That the solicitation and contract shall contain the clause availability of funds found at 48 CFR 52.232–18.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(RESCISSION)

The contract authority provided for fiscal year 2016 by section 9 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l-10a) is rescinded.

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of lands or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with the statutory authority applicable to the National Park Service, $84,367,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended, of which $48,117,000 is for the State assistance program and of which $9,000,000 shall be for the American Battlefield Protection Program grants as authorized by section 7301 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11).

CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of section 814(g) of Public Law 104–333 (16 U.S.C. 1f) relating to challenge cost share agreements, $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for Centennial Challenge projects and programs: *Provided*, That not less than 50 percent of the total cost of each project or program shall be derived from non-Federal sources in the form of donated cash, assets, or a pledge of donation guaranteed by an irrevocable letter of credit.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. TSONGAS

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 16, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $30,000,000) (reduced by $30,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment is intended to recognize the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge and the importance of funding the program at the level requested by President Obama and the National Park Service.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, a milestone in this country's history that we as a nation should be proud of and celebrate. For a century now, the national parks have preserved and protected our Nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use and enjoyment of future generations. I am proud to represent two national parks.

In my hometown, the Lowell National Historic Park was the first urban national park of its kind, commemorating, preserving, and protecting the catalytic role the city played in spawning America's Industrial Revolution.

Minute Man National Historic Park is just down the road in Concord, where visitors can see firsthand where the shot heard 'round the world was fired and where the American Revolution began.

The many visitors to both sites are grateful that our country has made the commitment to protecting our history and our landscapes for future generations, coming away awed and inspired by the sites that have shaped who we are as a people.

The upcoming centennial is a tremendous opportunity to increase public engagement with our parks so that we may not only celebrate the places we love to visit with family and friends, but also make the necessary investments that will prepare our parks for the next 100 years.

Despite its significant and multifaceted obligations, the Park Service budget has been shrinking, compromising its ability to ensure adequate protection to our treasured national history.

Since 2010, there has been more than a 7 percent, or $178 million in today's dollars, reduction in the account to operate national parks. Over the last decade, there has been a 62 percent, or $227 million in today's dollars, decline in the National Park Service construction account. This has led to an enormous deferred maintenance backlog, totaling $11.5 billion of dilapidated visitor centers, unmaintained trail centers, and failing water treatment facilities.

Historically, our parks have had bipartisan support. To mark the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966, President Eisenhower initiated Mission 66, which invested more than $1 billion in improvements to visitor facilities throughout the park system.

Ten years ahead of the 100th anniversary, President George W. Bush launched the Centennial Initiative, a 10-year, $3 billion plan to restore the parks through a combination of public and private funding. That effort was never fully realized, but President Obama revived the initiative ahead of the 2016 centennial celebration.

In the FY15 omnibus spending bill, Congress provided $10 million to reinvigorate the Centennial Challenge. The initial $10 million Federal investment was matched by an additional $16 million in private donations for signature centennial projects.

In total, 106 projects were selected throughout the country to improve visitor services, chip away at the deferred maintenance backlog, and support youth programs. Over 200 projects were submitted, demonstrating the high demand for additional money to be matched by private contributions.

Given the overwhelming success from the $10 million investment this year, Congress should strongly consider increasing funding levels for the Centennial Challenge in 2017.

I understand that this is a difficult task, given the inadequate funding allocation provided for the Interior Department under the Budget Control Act and sequestration. I regret that we were unable to do so through this amendment. The funding allocation for the National Park Service represents yet another example of why Congress must work together on a bipartisan basis to end sequestration.

I hope that we can find a way to support the Centennial Challenge and the President's budget request for the National Park Service so that we not only celebrate the places we love to visit with family and friends, but to make the necessary investments that will prepare our parks for the next 100 years.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Representative TSONGAS' amendment to support the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge.

As a former National Park Service Ranger, I am proud to serve as a Congressional Friend of the National Park Service Centennial, and I eagerly await the centennial in 2016: Find Your Park.

As the NPS approaches its centennial year, it is important to ensure they have the resources they need to enter into the second century of service to the American people. The Interior Subcommittee has tried its very best to invest in parks, given its insufficient allocation; but with the centennial approaching and the buildup of park needs, this level is not remotely enough for parks.

Recognizing the serious impact of both the Budget Control Act and emergency wildfire suppression on the Interior allocation, Congress still must find a way to meet the needs of parks by securing another budget deal to get rid of the threat of sequester. There is no better time than the centennial for a robust investment in our national parks by Congress and the American people. It is time to make our national parks a national priority.

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Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to other uses set forth in section 407(d) of Public Law 105–391, franchise fees credited to a sub-account shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use at any unit within the National Park System to extinguish or reduce liability for Possessory Interest or leasehold surrender interest. Such funds may only be used for this purpose to the extent that the benefitting unit anticipated franchise fee receipts over the term of the contract at that unit exceed the amount of funds used to extinguish or reduce liability. Franchise fees at the benefitting unit shall be credited to the sub-account of the originating unit over a period not to exceed the term of a single contract at the benefitting unit, in the amount of funds so expended to extinguish or reduce liability.

For the costs of administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants authorized by section 105(a)(2)(B) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–432), the National Park Service may retain up to 3 percent of the amounts which are authorized to be disbursed under such section, such retained amounts to remain available until expended.

National Park Service funds may be transferred to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation, for purposes authorized under 23 U.S.C. 204. Transfers may include a reasonable amount for FHWA administrative support costs.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary for the United States Geological Survey to perform surveys, investigations, and research covering topography, geology, hydrology, biology, and the mineral and water resources of the United States, its territories and possessions, and other areas as authorized by 43 U.S.C. 31, 1332, and 1340; classify lands as to their mineral and water resources; give engineering supervision to power permittees and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensees; administer the minerals exploration program (30 U.S.C. 641); conduct inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries (30 U.S.C. 3, 21a, and 1603; 50 U.S.C. 98g(1)) and related purposes as authorized by law; and to publish and disseminate data relative to the foregoing activities; $1,045,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017; of which $57,637,189 shall remain available until expended for satellite operations; and of which $7,280,000 shall be available until expended for deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects that exceed $100,000 in cost: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided for the ecosystem research activity shall be used to conduct new surveys on private property, unless specifically authorized in writing by the property owner: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to pay more than one-half the cost of topographic mapping or water resources data collection and investigations carried on in cooperation with States and municipalities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

From within the amount appropriated for activities of the United States Geological Survey such sums as are necessary shall be available for contracting for the furnishing of topographic maps and for the making of geophysical or other specialized surveys when it is administratively determined that such procedures are in the public interest; construction and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities; acquisition of lands for gauging stations and observation wells; expenses of the United States National Committee for Geological Sciences; and payment of compensation and expenses of persons employed by the Survey duly appointed to represent the United States in the negotiation and administration of interstate compacts: *Provided*, That activities funded by appropriations herein made may be accomplished through the use of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements as defined in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Geological Survey may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 6101, for the temporary or intermittent services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purpose of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purposes.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for granting leases, easements, rights-of-way and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law; for environmental studies, as authorized by law; for implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, $167,270,000, of which $70,648,000, is to remain available until September 30, 2017 and of which $96,622,000 is to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than $70,648,000: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 3, after each of the first and second dollar amounts, insert ''(reduced by $5,434,000)''.

Page 64, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,434,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, drilling for and transporting oil and gas is a dirty and dangerous business. There is no disputing that.

No matter what assurances are given by the oil industry, spills do happen, and they will continue to happen as we depend on fossil fuels for our energy needs.

Sadly, my constituents in Santa Barbara, California, are far too familiar with this reality. Just over a month ago, on May 19, over 100,000 gallons of crude oil spilled from the Plains All American pipeline along the Gaviota Coast. The oil spilled down a hill, through a culvert, and into the ocean, eventually spreading thick, black tar along nearly 100 miles of coastline.

This was a unique spill, in that it impacted both land and ocean, requiring both the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, as well as the Coast Guard to respond to and lead the cleanup effort.

When it comes to oil spills, the damage gets worse by the minute, so ensuring that spill response teams are properly trained and prepared to respond quickly is essential to minimizing the impacts. This is precisely why the EPA has jurisdiction over the inland oil spill program.

The EPA uses this funding to prevent, to prepare for, and to respond to oil spills associated with the more than 600,000 oil storage facilities that the Agency regulates. The EPA's oil program also provides oil spill response resources and training for States, localities, and tribal governments.

Despite its scope and importance, this program has been seriously underfunded for years, and H.R. 2822 only makes things worse by funding this program at nearly 25 percent less than the President requested.

My amendment would simply increase funding for this program by $5.4 million, to match the President's requested amount of $23.4 million for fiscal year 2016. This modest increase in funding would help ensure that EPA can do its job to help protect coastal areas, like the one I represent, from the impacts of oil spills.

The funding increase, however, would be offset by reducing the conventional energy account at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOME, by an equal amount.

I want to be clear. This funding reduction for BOME is intended to target the funding used for new offshore oil and gas leasing. BOME will continue to fund safety operations and environmental assessments.

The new 5-year offshore oil and gas program being drafted by BOME calls for 14 potential lease sales, including in some new areas off the East Coast. Expanding drilling by cutting funding for oil spill cleanup is incredibly irresponsible.

Mr. Chairman, I have spent my entire career in Congress fighting to stop offshore drilling because I firmly believe the risks outweigh the benefits. Perhaps the current majority does not agree with me on this goal.

I hope we can at least all agree that we should not be expanding oil drilling unless we are properly preparing for the spills that will inevitably occur. As long as we drill for oil, there will be oil spills, and the economic and ecological risks of these spills only increases when the oil is extracted offshore.

While the Coast Guard is responsible for responding to offshore spills, the recent spill in my district shows that offshore drilling can also have onshore impacts, especially for coastal communities like those I represent.

The oil that spilled from the Plains All American pipeline was extracted just a few miles offshore in Federal waters. It was then pumped onshore to a holding facility, and it continued through the pipeline that ruptured. This offshore oil spilled from the pipeline, down a hillside, on to the beach, and back into the ocean under which it had been extracted.

Drilling and spill cleanup are inextricably linked. The least we can do is ensure that the EPA has the resources it needs to ensure that the spills are quickly and properly cleaned up when they inevitably happen.

This is precisely what my amendment seeks to achieve. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. As in the case with many of the amendments today before us, I cannot support the offset. Let me say this: EPA may be reimbursed for oil spill response activities from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

Now, personally, I think EPA should have direct access to that trust fund to avoid the delays, these administrative reimbursement delays, when responding to an oil spill such as what happened in California. However, that is an authorizing issue, not an appropriating issue.

That is the proper place because those dollars will be there eventually to clean that up, and we just need to clean up the bureaucracy to have more immediacy in that process.

This offset, I cannot support; and so, for that reason, I oppose the amendment.

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I have no additional speakers. I am prepared to close. In closing, I would like to reiterate two points.

First, that oil and gas exploration is inherently dangerous, there is no disputing that. Spills do happen. Unfortunately, my district observed these consequences firsthand during the Plains pipeline spill just over a month ago.

Second, if we are going to continue to extract, to transport, and to utilize oil, we need to be prepared for the inevitability of these spills. The EPA's inland oil spill program is intended for just this purpose, to be prepared to respond to the inevitable.

It is irresponsible to develop new oil extraction, including offshore, without being prepared to respond to its risk.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would urge a ''no'' vote on this amendment. I don't agree to the offset. The fact that we have an Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, that should be accessed.

I will be happy to work with the gentlewoman to work with the authorizers where we can get more immediate response to these kinds of activities that happen from time to time around the country, but I urge a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

OFFSHORE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

For expenses necessary for the regulation of operations related to leases, easements, rights-of-way and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf, as authorized by law; for enforcing and implementing laws and regulations as authorized by law and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, $123,354,000, of which $66,147,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2017, and of which $57,207,000 is to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than $66,147,000.

For an additional amount, $65,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation, which

shall be derived from non-refundable inspection fees collected in fiscal year 2016, as provided in this Act: *Provided*, That to the extent that amounts realized from such inspection fees exceed $65,000,000, the amounts realized in excess of $65,000,000 shall be credited to this appropriation and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees expended by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement will be used to fund personnel and mission-related costs to expand capacity and expedite the orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, of the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including the review of applications for permits to drill.

OIL SPILL RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out title I, section 1016, title IV, sections 4202 and 4303, title VII, and title VIII, section 8201 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, $14,899,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95–87, $123,253,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That appropriations for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement may provide for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF OHIO

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 24, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 65, lines 5 and 10, after each dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Ohio and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to thank Chairman CALVERT and the subcommittee for a great underlying piece of legislation. We have got a great appropriations bill here, and I look forward to supporting it.

My amendment to the FY 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill will keep the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's spending in check with the agency's obligation. Specifically, it will reduce OSM's regulation and technology budget by $2 million and transfer those funds to the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

According to OSM, States and tribes perform 97 percent of the regulatory activity relating to surface coal mining in the United States; yet OSM receives 25 percent of the staffing resources to perform 3 percent of the work.

This amendment will help bring spending in parity with the work done by OSM.

Although the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, or SMCRA, was enacted to allow States with approved programs to assume exclusive jurisdiction of mining in their States, under the current administration, OSM has increasingly used its inflated budget to improperly usurp the lawful decisions of State regulators.

This amendment will help curtail excessive Federal interference and restore the State's role in surface mining regulation. For instance, over the past 5 years, OSM has spent more than $10 million of its disproportionately large budget to pursue a wholesale regulatory rewrite of the agency's regulatory program.

Dubbed the ''stream protection rule'' by the agency, this massive regulatory undertaking has little to do with protecting streams and more to do with riding roughshod over State regulating programs and the role of other agencies, including State Clean Water Act regulators.

During its pursuit of the stream protection rule, OSM has completely cut States out of the process, in violation of its legal obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act.

My amendment will help restrain the resources of the agency from promulgating a rule made without State consultation and in violation of NEPA.

In fact, 10 States initially signed a memorandum of understanding with OSM and agreed to serve as cooperating agencies for the development of the environmental impact statement to accompany the so-called stream protection rule.

Of those 10 States, six have withdrawn their respective MOUs due to lack of consultation from OSM. These States include Alabama, New Mexico, Utah, Texas, Kentucky, and West Virginia. More States are expected to withdraw. While Wyoming is still a cooperating agency, they have requested that their State seal be removed from the EIS.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my fellow colleagues to support this amendment that will keep spending in check with the OSM's statutory responsibilities.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. I understand there is a level of frustration regarding the Office of Surface Mining's continued use of funds to develop the stream buffer rule, and we attempted to address that through the bill language to limit funding.

I certainly support what you are doing for water infrastructure. It is a good amendment that will leverage jobs, and I urge an ''aye'' vote.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of Congressman JOHNSON's amendment to cut $2 million from the Office of Surface Mining regulatory and technology budget and transfer those funds to the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

This amendment will cut funding for an office that has launched an all-out war on coal in my home State of West Virginia. The Office of Surface Mining's stream protection rule is intentionally designed to shut down all surface mining and a significant section of underground mining in the Appalachian region.

□ 1515

A 2012 study found the rewrite of the stream protection rule is estimated to cost nearly 80,000 direct coal-related jobs. The coal industry is vital to West Virginia and my district. Coal supports over 90 percent of the power generation in my State. It is crucial that we cut the funding for the Office of Surface Mining before they can do any more damage.

I thank my colleague for offering this amendment and urge its passage.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank subcommittee Chairman CALVERT again for supporting this amendment.

I urge a ''yes'' vote by my colleagues.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, for costs to review, administer, and enforce permits issued by the Bureau pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 95µ0987 (30 U.S.C. 1257), $40,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That fees assessed and collected by the Office pursuant to such section 507 shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a fiscal year 2016 appropriation estimated at not more than $123,253,000.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

For necessary expenses to carry out title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95µ0987, $27,303,000, to be derived from receipts of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That pursuant to Public Law 97µ09365, the Department of the Interior is authorized to use up to 20 percent from the recovery of the delinquent debt owed to the United States Government to pay for contracts to collect these debts: *Provided further*, That funds made available under title IV of Public Law 95µ0987 may be used for any required non-Federal share of the cost of projects funded by the Federal Government for the purpose of environmental restoration related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines: *Provided further*, That such projects must be consistent with the purposes and priorities of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under

this heading may be used for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

In addition, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for grants to States for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That such additional amount shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities in section 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)): *Provided further*, That such additional amount shall be distributed in equal amounts to the 3 Appalachian States with the greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet the priorities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section: *Provided further*, That such additional amount shall be allocated to States within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 25, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $29,904,000)''.

Page 132, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $29,904,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, after speaking with Chairman CALVERT and Chairman ROGERS with help on future amendments, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 26, line 7, strike ''3'' and insert ''6''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, expanding the number of Appalachian States eligible for this program from three to six will allow additional States, including Virginia, to be able to participate. The committee and the subcommittee came up with a great idea. I just want to make sure it is expanded so that more States can benefit.

The Kentucky Coal Association was in this week for a press conference, and one of their members said to me at that time that the sickness that has been in Kentucky is now spreading to Virginia, and they are absolutely right.

In 1 year's time, my district has lost hundreds of coal mine jobs due to this administration's burdensome regulations on the coal industry; but it is not just the coal mine jobs. Many more jobs in related industries have also been lost.

With those jobs, jobs in things as diverse as the hardware store, the Long John Silver's—you name it—are being lost throughout the coal country of Appalachian Virginia.

The downturn of the coal industry in my district has led to many economic difficulties for many of my constituents and the local governments. I believe it is critical that we work to find ways to provide assistance throughout all of the Appalachian coal country, and my amendment would go part of the way to helping restore some economic vitality to my district.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, the committee, as the gentleman knows, has included this as a pilot program to test in a few States how community and economic redevelopment can combine in conjunction with reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

These funds will be provided to States with the largest unfunded needs to date. If you expand that to include six States, this pilot then starts to look more like a program, and that is not the committee's intent. The committee believes that the lessons learned from this pilot will inform changes, both pros and cons, under the reauthorization of the underlying law.

I want to work with the gentleman in the future as this pilot moves forward. When we have more information, we can potentially, next year, reexamine this.

I would ask the gentleman if he would withdraw the amendment. I would certainly be happy to work with him in the future. I know the full committee chairman is certainly in the interest of him to address the needs of his constituents. We are certainly sympathetic to that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I certainly have no quarrel with the committee or the committee chairman or the subcommittee chairman.

I think this is a great pilot project, which was why I thought it was a brilliant idea, which is why I wanted to at least put this on the table.

It is not my habit to offer and then withdraw. Sometimes, you lose; and I understand that is probably the case. I did want to put it on the table, and I do appreciate the gentleman's kind remarks.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would just reluctantly oppose this amendment at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2001–2019), and the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), $2,505,670,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed $8,500 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed $74,809,000 shall be for welfare assistance payments: *Provided*, That in cases of designated Federal disasters, the Secretary may exceed such cap, from the amounts provided herein, to provide for disaster relief to Indian communities affected by the disaster: *Provided further*, That federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian tribes may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $619,827,000 for school operations costs of Bureau-funded schools and other education programs shall become available on July 1, 2016, and shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $48,785,000 shall remain available until expended for housing improvement, road maintenance, attorney fees, litigation support, land records improvement, and the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program: *Provided further*, That any forestry funds allocated to a federally recognized tribe which remain unobligated as of September 30, 2017, may be transferred during fiscal year 2018 to an Indian forest land assistance account established for the benefit of the holder of the funds within the holder's trust fund account: *Provided further*, That any such unobligated balances not so transferred shall expire on September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel: *Provided further*, That $272,000,000 shall be for payments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with contracts, grants, self-governance compacts, or annual funding agreements between the Bureau and an Indian tribe or tribal organization pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) prior to or during fiscal year 2016, and shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $50,304,000)''.

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $61,304,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a straightforward amendment to ensure local schools within the Bureau of Indian Education have the resources necessary to provide gainful education in quality facilities at a level on par with their peers in other non-Bureau funded schools.

This amendment is also offered and supported by a bipartisan group of my colleagues, including Representatives Cramer, Rokita, Noem, Kirkpatrick, and Sinema.

Our amendment redirects funds from administrative accounts within the EPA to the Operation of Indian Programs account with the intent of those funds going to the BIE and evenly allocated between the education construction, replacement facilities construction account and the elementary and secondary programs, facilities operations account.

Currently, more than one-third of Bureau-funded facilities are in substandard or poor condition. A sizable volume of research, including investigations by the Government Accountability Office, have established a direct correlation between facility conditions and poor student outcomes within the BIE.

The United States Government has trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and Indian education. This amendment supports the trust responsibility by helping to provide high-quality education in an environment that is safe, healthy, and conducive for learning.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment. I thank the supporters of the amendment, and I thank the chairman and ranking member for their great work on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I know there is no doubt that Indian Country, especially Indian education, is a nonpartisan priority of this entire subcommittee. We are committed to building upon the bipartisan work of former subcommittee chairmen MIKE SIMPSON, Jim Moran, Norm Dicks, and certainly Ranking Member BETTY MCCOLLUM.

We all agree that there are great needs in Indian Country, especially in education. In fact, we were in Arizona recently at both the Navajo and Hopi reservations and saw firsthand the need for education in this country.

Although I am proud of what we have done for Indian Country in this bill, that said, I understand where the gentleman is coming from. I recognize there is so much more to do on Indian education that can and should be done.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from California and the ranking member for their help.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), my friend.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. MCCOLLUM for their help in all this.

This amendment, which I support, would fund the BIE to the administration's fiscal year 2016 request, but unlike that request, it is paid for and adheres to our budget cap.

This year, as the chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to visit several BIE schools in Arizona and Minnesota.

During these visits, I have seen firsthand the challenges that the BIE faces. These challenges consist of crumbling school buildings, inadequate technology and Internet connectivity, transportation issues, and inconsistent management.

These are all serious challenges, and they are all well documented by my official visits, by committee hearings—such as those being done by Mr. CALVERT's subcommittee and mine—by GAO reports, and by the media.

This increase in funds will help address the identified challenges by providing the resources needed to improve the academic achievement and increase the graduation rates of Native American students that attend BIE schools. This is the goal of all of us for Native American children.

Mr. Chairman, I look at this as a bipartisan issue and appreciate my colleagues' support of Mr. GOSAR's amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support and my colleague from Indiana for speaking on behalf of this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, and other facilities, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; and preparation of lands for farming, and for construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project pursuant to Public Law 87–483, $187,620,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts as may be available for the construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project may be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 6 percent of contract authority available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the Federal Highway Trust Fund may be used to cover the road program management costs of the Bureau: *Provided further*, That any funds provided for the Safety of Dams program pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 13 shall be made available on a nonreimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, in implementing new construction, replacement facilities construction, or facilities improvement and repair project grants in excess of $100,000 that are provided to grant schools under Public Law 100–297, the Secretary of the Interior shall use the Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs contained in 43 CFR part 12 as the regulatory requirements: *Provided further*, That such grants shall not be subject to section 12.61 of 43 CFR; the Secretary and the grantee shall negotiate and determine a schedule of payments for the work to be performed: *Provided further*, That in considering grant applications, the Secretary shall consider whether such grantee would be deficient in assuring that the construction projects conform to applicable building standards and codes and Federal, tribal, or State health and safety standards as required by 25 U.S.C. 2005(b), with respect to organizational and financial management capabilities: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary declines a grant application, the Secretary shall follow the requirements contained in 25 U.S.C. 2504(f): *Provided further*, That any disputes between the Secretary and any grantee concerning a grant shall be subject to the disputes provision in 25 U.S.C. 2507(e): *Provided further*, That in order to ensure timely completion of construction projects, the Secretary may assume control of a project and all funds related to the project, if, within 18 months of the date of enactment of this Act, any grantee receiving funds appropriated in this Act or in any prior Act, has not completed the planning and design phase of the project and commenced construction: *Provided further*, That this appropriation may be reimbursed from the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians appropriation for the appropriate share of construction costs for space expansion needed in agency offices to meet trust reform implementation.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIM SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

For payments and necessary administrative expenses for implementation of Indian land and water claim settlements pursuant to Public Laws 99–264, 100–580, 101–618, 111–11, and 111–291, and for implementation of other land and water rights settlements, $65,412,000, to remain available until expended.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans and insured loans, $7,731,000, of which $1,045,000 is for administrative expenses, as authorized by the Indian Financing Act of 1974: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed or insured, not to exceed $100,496,183.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs may carry out the operation of Indian programs by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, either directly or in cooperation with States and other organizations.

Notwithstanding 25 U.S.C. 15, the Bureau of Indian Affairs may contract for services in support of the management, operation, and maintenance of the Power Division of the San Carlos Irrigation Project.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for central office oversight and Executive Direction and Administrative Services (except executive direction and administrative services funding for Tribal Priority Allocations, regional offices, and facilities operations and maintenance) shall be available for contracts, grants, compacts, or

cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act or the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–413).

In the event any tribe returns appropriations made available by this Act to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, this action shall not diminish the Federal Government's trust responsibility to that tribe, or the government-to-government relationship between the United States and that tribe, or that tribe's ability to access future appropriations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education, other than the amounts provided herein for assistance to public schools under 25 U.S.C. 452 et seq., shall be available to support the operation of any elementary or secondary school in the State of Alaska.

No funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education shall be used to support expanded grades for any school or dormitory beyond the grade structure in place or approved by the Secretary of the Interior at each school in the Bureau of Indian Education school system as of October 1, 1995, except that the Secretary of the Interior may waive this prohibition to support expansion of up to one additional grade when the Secretary determines such waiver is needed to support accomplishment of the mission of the Bureau of Indian Education. Appropriations made available in this or any prior Act for schools funded by the Bureau shall be available, in accordance with the Bureau's funding formula, only to the schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, and to any school or school program that was reinstated in fiscal year 2012. Funds made available under this Act may not be used to establish a charter school at a Bureau-funded school (as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)), except that a charter school that is in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act and that has operated at a Bureau-funded school before September 1, 1999, may continue to operate during that period, but only if the charter school pays to the Bureau a pro rata share of funds to reimburse the Bureau for the use of the real and personal property (including buses and vans), the funds of the charter school are kept separate and apart from Bureau funds, and the Bureau does not assume any obligation for charter school programs of the State in which the school is located if the charter school loses such funding. Employees of Bureau-funded schools sharing a campus with a charter school and performing functions related to the charter school's operation and employees of a charter school shall not be treated as Federal employees for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 113 of title I of appendix C of Public Law 106–113, if in fiscal year 2003 or 2004 a grantee received indirect and administrative costs pursuant to a distribution formula based on section 5(f) of Public Law 101–301, the Secretary shall continue to distribute indirect and administrative cost funds to such grantee using the section 5(f) distribution formula.

Funds available under this Act may not be used to establish satellite locations of schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, except that the Secretary may waive this prohibition in order for an Indian tribe to provide language and cultural immersion educational programs for non-public schools located within the jurisdictional area of the tribal government which exclusively serve tribal members, do not include grades beyond those currently served at the existing Bureau-funded school, provide an educational environment with educator presence and academic facilities comparable to the Bureau-funded school, comply with all applicable Tribal, Federal, or State health and safety standards, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and demonstrate the benefits of establishing operations at a satellite location in lieu of incurring extraordinary costs, such as for transportation or other impacts to students such as those caused by busing students extended distances: *Provided*, That no funds available under this Act may be used to fund operations, maintenance, rehabilitation, construction or other facilities-related costs for such assets that are not owned by the Bureau: *Provided further*, That the term ''satellite school'' means a school location physically separated from the existing Bureau school by more than 50 miles but that forms part of the existing school in all other respects: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Federal Acknowledgement of American Indian Tribes'' published by the Department of the Interior in the Federal Register on May 29, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 30766 et seq.).

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for management of the Department of the Interior, including the collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, $717,279,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017; of which not to exceed $15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; and of which up to $1,000,000 shall be available for workers compensation payments and unemployment compensation payments associated with the orderly closure of the United States Bureau of Mines; and of which $8,128,000 for the Office of Valuation Services is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and shall remain available until expended; and of which $38,300,000 shall remain available until expended for the purpose of mineral revenue management activities: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, $15,000 under this heading shall be available for refunds of overpayments in connection with certain Indian leases in which the Secretary concurred with the claimed refund due, to pay amounts owed to Indian allottees or tribes, or to correct prior unrecoverable erroneous payments.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SABLAN

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 38, line 6, after each of the first and second dollar amounts, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment increases funding for territorial assistance initiatives managed by the Interior Department.

The assistance benefits the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which I represent, but also the United States territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands, as well as America's allies in the Pacific, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

□ 1530

The assistance will continue our commitment to help all of these areas to develop economically and become more self-sufficient.

Mr. Chairman, much remains to reach these goals. The 2010 Census revealed that poverty levels in the islands remain three to five times the national average, and median income in the Northern Marianas is only $20,000 compared to $53,000 nationwide.

The most recent gross domestic product data for the islands, reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, found that in the Virgin Islands, real GDP declined 5.4 percent in 2013 and declined 2.4 percent in American Samoa. In contrast, the real GDP for the United States, excluding the territories, increased 2.2 percent in 2013. So we have a lot of catching up to do.

Interior has been very responsible in recent years, focusing technical assistance funds in a way that really will help our areas develop economically. I am thinking in particular of the Empowering Insular Communities program, which is helping us move imported fuels—that are costly and take money out of our economies—to greater use of locally available energy sources.

I am thinking about the Insular Areas: Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms Initiative, just like the preceding amendment. This program found that only 38 percent of insular schools are in acceptable condition and identified specifically those schools where there are safety hazards for students. The ABC Initiative is systematically upgrading that infrastructure so our children have schools that are conducive to learning and are safe. Developing those human resources is the surest way to raise our economy. We need to give Interior the resources to continue—and finish—that initiative.

The additional $5 million my amendment provides can be used for these or any of the other territorial assistance programs, such as the Coral Reef Initiative, brown tree snake control, or compact impact to areas negatively affected by United States immigration policies.

Mr. Chairman, all of these programs are works in progress. We should provide more funding for them, and technical assistance funding should remain focused on programs that the Department has already begun and invested in. I appreciate the past support for the program and, even in these challenging fiscal times, I urge your support for increased funding for assistance to territories for fiscal year 2016.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the gentleman's amendment. I want the gentleman to know that I understand that the territories would benefit greatly from additional funding. We funded the assistance to territories at the FY15-enacted levels. We level-funded that because we know that the money is needed, and we know that we have responsibilities in the territories. However, the offset right now, we have cut back that particular operation considerably, so I would oppose that offset. But I would be more than happy to work with the gentleman as we move this process along, along with the ranking member, to see if we can't get additional funds as we move this process along.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the gentleman's intent, but we would have to reluctantly oppose this amendment at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate very much the chairman's offer to work with me because I will look him up and work with him and his subcommittee. But let me just make a small point here of what this technical assistance money means to us.

The States are eligible for thousands of Federal programs that help States do one thing or another, from social to educational to infrastructure projects. For the territories, there are only 700-some programs where the territories are eligible. So there is a difference.

So this small pot of technical assistance money is a program that provides grants to help the territories pick themselves up and wipe off the dust. It is just a small amount of money. Five million goes a long way, Mr. Chairman, when it is fixing the schools that the Army Corps has already identified. I understand there are 1,500 school buildings, and 62 percent of them are not safe, and only 38 percent are declared safe. So just like we do for the Bureau of Indian Education, we are also asking that we increase this money.

So I will also work with the chair, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands will be postponed.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that the chairman is looking towards working more for putting dollars into Indian education, as Mr. GOSAR's amendment did, and the bipartisan way in which this bill has been proceeding forward, and I yield to the chairman.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I am more than happy to work with the young lady to get additional funding for Indian education at any time in the future, and we can continue to work together to do that.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I also appreciate the Parliamentarian's patience and the majority's patience while we get another copy of the amendment presented to the body for consideration. I thank everyone for their courtesy.

Mr. Chairman, Minnesota is a great State, and we would like to have the gentleman from California there so the gentleman can see our great lakes and our great water.

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, could the gentlewoman please ship some of that water to California?

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Reclaiming my time and my water, we would love to have the gentleman there, and when the water is very hard, it freezes, and then the gentleman can try ice fishing, which is a great sport.

Mr. Chair, I think the amendment is coming to the desk. Once more, I thank you very much for your patience, and I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,913,000)''.

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,913,000)''.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's motion.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the House's consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to restore brownfields funding to fiscal year 2015 levels and to make the point that when we help redevelop contaminated properties, we generate a large return on investments that lift our communities back home.

My amendment increases EPA's Environmental Programs and Management account by a modest $1.9 million to be offset by the same amount from the Office of the Secretary. Even with this modest boost, the proposed bill on the floor, unfortunately, would remain $4 million below the budget request.

Mr. Chairman, when a contaminated property achieves a brownfields designation and a grant, local communities and businesses can clean up the property and put the property back into use. This type of economic redevelopment is key to our neighborhoods and communities, rural or urban. It increases property values and creates jobs with just a little bit of seed money from the EPA through brownfields.

A 2014 study concluded that cleaning up brownfields leads to nearby residential property value increases of 4.9 to 11 percent. Another 2007 study found that an average of 10 jobs are created for every acre of brownfields redevelopment. And based on historical data, we know that $1 of the EPA's brownfields funding leverages between $17 and $18 in other public and private financing.

Mr. Chairman, I have witnessed great success in brownfields redevelopment back home in the Tampa Bay area. For example, when the existence of the Old Mercy Hospital in Midtown St. Petersburg was in jeopardy due to environmental contamination on the site, the city of St. Petersburg and the EPA stepped in to turn the Old Mercy Hospital into a flourishing community health center. The project created 80 jobs, saved existing jobs, created new jobs, and it stands now as the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Community Health Center, which is the linchpin to Midtown St. Petersburg community redevelopment efforts.

Similarly, in Tampa, the Tampa Family Health Centers have redeveloped a number of brownfields sites, including one on the site of a closed car dealership, that have had a very positive impact beyond the health care of thousands and thousands of my neighbors in a severely underserved area. It is one of the primary examples of the growing healthfields initiative which targets redevelopment through brownfields to help improve access to health services for our neighbors.

Mr. Chairman, the return on investment is so great across America. The Congress must invest much more in our communities, and brownfields redevelopment is simply smart policy, especially in places where these resources are scarce. It is also a critical part of EPA's environmental justice efforts and its Environmental Justice 2020 Action Agenda framework. When the EPA released its Environmental Justice 2020 framework, I convened local community leaders across the Tampa Bay area to solicit their opinions, and brownfields redevelopment was at the top of their list.

Mr. Chairman, we can do better here, and I hope as the appropriations process goes on we will find ways to help communities redevelop with this small seed money through the brownfields initiative.

I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM. I urge my colleagues to support the Castor amendment to revitalize our communities back home, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I wish the gentlewoman was able to share this amendment with both the majority and the minority in the committee where we could have reviewed it. But saying that, I still must oppose the amendment because of the offset.

Mr. Chairman, the offset obviously would take money from the Secretary and move it over to the EPA, and at this time we have used the Secretary's Office tremendously as an offset already, and I am afraid that this may start affecting other programs within the Department of the Interior. So I would have to oppose this amendment.

The gentlewoman's amendment won't increase the cleanup of a brownfields site, it will only pay for salaries over at the EPA, and I believe that we don't need to do any more for the EPA than has already been done.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, this is an important account to beef up. Remember, we are under the sequester caps, and then we are $4 million under the budget request even with this amendment.

Now, the Secretary's Office is the best place to go for an offset. The Secretary's account is $452 million above fiscal year 2015 levels and $389 million above the budget request.

□ 1545

I would put to you that it would be a better investment for our communities back home to allow them this little seed money, this little matching money, to redevelop properties, rather than fund the bureaucracy at the EPA.

I urge approval of the Castor amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

For fiscal year 2016, up to $400,000 of the payments authorized by the Act of October 20, 1976 (31 U.S.C. 6901–6907) may be retained for administrative expenses of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program: *Provided*, That no payment shall be made pursuant to that Act to otherwise eligible units of local government if the computed amount of the payment is less than $100: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may reduce the payment authorized by 31 U.S.C. 6901–6907 for an individual county by the amount necessary to correct prior year overpayments to that county: *Provided further*, That the amount needed to correct a prior year underpayment to an individual county shall be paid from any reductions for overpayments to other counties and the amount necessary to cover any remaining underpayment is hereby appropriated and shall be paid to individual counties: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available by this title for ''Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations'', $452,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for payments in lieu of taxes under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code.

INSULAR AFFAIRS

ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

For expenses necessary for assistance to territories under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior and other jurisdictions identified in section 104(e) of Public Law 108–188, $85,976,000, of which: (1) $76,528,000 shall remain available until expended for territorial assistance, including general technical assistance, maintenance assistance, disaster assistance, coral reef initiative activities, and brown tree snake control and research; grants to the judiciary in American Samoa for compensation and expenses, as authorized by law (48 U.S.C. 1661(c)); grants to the Government of American Samoa, in addition to current local revenues, for construction and support of governmental functions; grants to the Government of the Virgin Islands as authorized by law; grants to the Government of Guam, as authorized by law; and grants to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands as authorized by law (Public Law 94–241; 90 Stat. 272); and (2) $9,448,000 shall be available until September 30, 2017, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Insular Affairs: *Provided*, That all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments herein provided for, including such transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments, may be audited by the Government Accountability Office, at its discretion, in accordance with chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That Northern Mariana Islands Covenant grant funding shall be provided according to those terms of the Agreement of the Special Representatives on Future United States Financial Assistance for the Northern Mariana Islands approved by Public Law 104–134: *Provided further*, That the funds for the program of operations and maintenance improvement are appropriated to institutionalize routine operations and maintenance improvement of capital infrastructure with territorial participation and cost sharing to be determined by the Secretary based on the grantee's commitment to timely maintenance of its capital assets: *Provided further*, That any appropriation for disaster assistance under this heading in this Act or previous appropriations Acts may be used as non-Federal matching funds for the purpose of hazard mitigation grants provided pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 2822.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 38, line 6, after the second dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $13,684,000) (increased by $13,684,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chairman, as one of the five Members of Congress representing America's offshore territories and as the Representative from the U.S. Virgin Islands, I am disappointed to see the underfunding made to the FY16 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Aside from the underfunding to environmental protection programs that protect important natural resources and, among a myriad of things, assures Americans have access to clean water, the cuts to this bill come largely at the expense of America's island territories.

The Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas have been a part of this great Nation for more than a century. Since then, this country has augmented the support to critical areas of activity by the respective local governments in these territories.

This is done, largely in part, through the Interior's territorial assistance activity, in which this bill proposes to underfund by $13,684,000.

Mr. Chairman, this is unacceptable. Funding through Interior's territorial assistance activity go toward many important functions in these territories, like capital improvement projects. These capital improvement projects, CIP, funds address a variety of infrastructure needs in the U.S. territories, including critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, wastewater, and solid waste systems.

For example, funding through CIP helped the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority complete the repair of a severely deteriorated force main water line that threatened to leak in nearby ocean water.

Improvements to critical infrastructure not only benefit the current population of these territories and the businesses that invest in those communities, but lay the groundwork to attract new investment to the territories, which promotes economic development and self-sufficiency.

An example of the importance of this funding to the territories is highlighted in the fiscal year '16 budget request, in which my home district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, proposes to use approximately $2 million to address health and safety deferred maintenance items that have been identified in Interior's insular assessment of buildings and classrooms initiative. This is imperative, as our schools are not structurally sound or conducive to the healthy learning environment.

Many of the schools in the Virgin Islands are overrun with mold and have severe structural deficiencies, some of which are over a half a century old.

The St. Croix Central High School had to close its doors last year because of noxious odors that made teachers and students sick. This recurring incident began midway through the 2013 school year and forced the entire student body of more than 1,000 students to join a similarly populated high school in double session for the remainder of the school year.

This coming fall, the Virgin Islands government will again close schools on the island of St. Croix, but this time, students from three schools will be relocated to other schools for at least an entire school year, maybe longer, while the local government works to repair the severely decrepit buildings that house those young people.

Mr. Chairman, there hasn't been a school built in the U.S. Virgin Islands in the last two decades. The children in my home district, as well as in the other five territories, deserve better and need the assistance afforded through this funding.

A breakdown of CIP expenditures in 2014 underscores how important this funding is to not only students in our territories, but also to our senior citizens as well. Construction or repair to schools and hospitals account for nearly half the total amount of CIP expenditures last year.

In St. Croix, our hospital is without an adequate mental health facility, as well as St. Thomas, and there are few assisted living facilities and a growing population of aging citizens.

The U.S. Virgin Islands also proposes to use $1 million in 2016 CIP funding for structural renovations and equipment upgrades at a variety of public libraries on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. These repairs and upgrades will help provide a safe, secure, and comfortable location for citizens to use library archives and public resources.

Mr. Chairman, the people living in America's island territories are citizens of this great Nation, the same as people living in Alaska, Hawaii, and the 48 contiguous States. We are constitutionally entitled to fair and equal representation and full inclusion by this House, as well as by this government.

I look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also point out that unlike the States, the Virgin Islands and the other territories are not part of the formula grants that the other locations have. We do not receive the same funding for grants, programs that provide technical assistance, jobs, or infrastructure.

In fact, today, with the announcement of the Supreme Court, while we are thankful for the rest of the United States, with the Affordable Care Act, we are not included in it to the full extent the other States are.

I am asking, Mr. Chairman, at this time, that this body, as well as this Congress and, in fact, the Federal Government, look to the Virgin Islands and look to including us and all of the territories in full inclusion.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

For grants and necessary expenses, $3,318,000, to remain available until expended, as provided for in sections 221(a)(2) and 233 of the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau; and section 221(a)(2) of the Compacts of Free Association for the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized by Public Law 99–658 and Public Law 108–188.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

At the request of the Governor of Guam, the Secretary may transfer discretionary funds or mandatory funds provided under section 104(e) of Public Law 108–188 and Public Law 104–134, that are allocated for Guam, to the Secretary of Agriculture for the subsidy cost of direct or guaranteed loans, plus not to exceed three percent of the amount of the subsidy transferred for the cost of loan administration, for the purposes authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for construction and repair projects in Guam, and such funds shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such loans or loan guarantees may be made without regard to the population of the area, credit elsewhere requirements, and restrictions on the types of eligible entities under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available to make or guarantee loans under such authorities.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Solicitor, $65,142,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, $50,047,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 41, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

On page 102, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,500,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the chair and the ranking member of this appropriations process for the Interior and Environment for their indulgence and their understanding of how much a part of the lives of Americans this legislation is from my amendment dealing with the culture and history of this Nation to that of clean water, clean air, our Federal parks, our forestry. This is a vital piece of the livelihood and the life of America.

Among other agencies that the legislation funds is the Smithsonian Institution, which operates our national museums, including the Air and Space Museum, the Museum of African Art, the American Art Museum, and the National Portrait Gallery. It also operates the national treasure, the National Zoo.

My amendment is simple. It sends a very important message from the Congress of the United States to infuse into the people cultural and appreciation for the respect and holding of wild animals, for the forests, for the number of assets that we should hold very dear, and it increases the Smithsonian Institution by $1.5 million.

Mr. Chairman, the Smithsonian's outreach programs bring scholars in art, history, and science out of the Nation's attic and into their own backyard. Each year, millions of Americans visit the Smithsonian.

In order to fill the Smithsonian's mission, the increase and diffusion of knowledge, the Smithsonian seeks to serve on an even greater audience by bringing it to the communities, to the people who otherwise would be deprived, or the institutions that would otherwise be deprived of this kind of cultural exchange.

This money is not a lot of money, but it is an important statement for those who seek to be connected to the cultural history of America.

The Smithsonian's outreach program serves millions of Americans, thousands of communities, and hundreds of institutions in all 50 States through

loans of objects, traveling exhibitions, and sharing of educational resources.

Smithsonian outreach programs work in close cooperation with Smithsonian museums and research centers, as well as with 144 affiliate institutions, and others across the Nation. Smithsonian outreach activities support community-based cultural and educational organizations.

It reaches out to African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, new Americans, and all Americans from kindergarten to college to our senior citizens.

What can we do to help this outreach expand? We can provide this simple amendment of $1.5 million to create more mobile museums talking about the extensive history that we have. These mobile museums then connect with our museums that we have.

The African American Museum in Houston is one of those that needs the bridge that the Smithsonian has. It is a museum that has reached prominence, but not the ability to reach a lot of people. This is an opportunity to boost the Smithsonian in order to ensure that we have that kind of outreach.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment only because of the offset.

The offset that we are talking about is taking money of the inspector general's office, which is our auditors, and we desperately need auditors in the Federal Government. We, as appropriators, are very reluctant to cut the inspector general's office in general.

I want to work with the gentlewoman. I recognize her passion to make sure that the good work that the Smithsonian does gets out to the general community throughout the United States. I am a big supporter of the Smithsonian. We have level-funded the Smithsonian Institution this year. Obviously, we are operating under difficult budget constraints.

We certainly support what the gentlewoman wants to do; we just don't support the offset in which she wants to do it with.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALVERT. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I think we have had an opportunity to be on the floor together over the years. Thank you so very much. I want to thank the ranking member and the leadership on the committee.

My question would be—obviously, this appropriations process is a bill here in the House and then there is conference—what would be the immediate strategy of working with you on this goal that we both would have?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CALVERT. We will continue to work with the gentlewoman as this process moves forward and with the ranking member, Ms. MCCOLLUM.

Who knows, there may be something that happens between A and B, and we may have some additional resources, who knows; but we will certainly work with you to find out if we do.

I know that if we can help the Smithsonian Institution out, it is really at the top of our list.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

Let me, first of all, thank the ranking member for all the hard work that has been done and the chairman. It is a passion for reaching out and touching museums like the Houston African American Museum that has, as its curator, an excellent leader in John Guess.

I would say to museums like that to allow me to take up the chairman and the ranking member's leadership and begin to look for what may be an extra opportunity to infuse dollars to get the culture of America to reach out to all over.

With that, in the spirit of collaboration and collegiality, I am going to at this time withdraw in a friendly manner the Jackson Lee amendment with a very hopeful commitment to be able to help museums like the Houston African American Museum and many others that really benefit from this connection.

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Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentlewoman for her generosity, and I will continue to work with her as this process moves forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me just say, in concluding, there are many things that this bill does. I am hoping that we will rid ourselves of sequester to let it do more, and one of the things would be this outreach that brings us together as a Nation in a positive way.

I cannot say good accolades about Houston museums in general, the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the Houston African American Museum that has a great purpose, and other museums that I hope we can address the Smithsonian's outreach capability.

Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of my amendment to H.R. 2822, the "Interior and Environment Appropriations Act of 2016."

Let me also thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM for their leadership in shepherding this bill to the floor.

Among other agencies, this legislation funds the Smithsonian Institution, which operates our national museums, including the Air and Space Museum; the Museum of African Art; the Museum of the American Indian; and the National Portrait Gallery.

The Smithsonian also operates another national treasure: the National Zoo.

Mr. Chair, my amendment is simple but it sends a very important message from the Congress of the United States.

The Jackson Lee Amendment provides that increases funding for the Smithsonian Institution by $1.5 million to fund outreach programs administered by the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Chair, the Smithsonian's outreach programs bring Smithsonian scholars in art, history and science out of "the nation's attic" and into their own backyard.

Each year, millions of Americans visit the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

But in order to fulfill the Smithsonian's mission, "the increase and diffusion of knowledge," the Smithsonian seeks to serve an even greater audience by bringing the Smithsonian to enclaves of communities who otherwise would be deprived of the vast amount of cultural history offered by the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's outreach programs serve millions of Americans, thousands of communities, and hundreds of institutions in all 50 states, through loans of objects, traveling exhibitions, and sharing of educational resources via publications, lectures and presentations, training programs, and websites.

Smithsonian outreach programs work in close cooperation with Smithsonian museums and research centers, as well as with 144 affiliate institutions and others across the nation.

The Smithsonian's outreach activities support community-based cultural and educational organizations around the country.

They ensure a vital, recurring, and high-impact Smithsonian presence in all 50 states through the provision of traveling exhibitions and a network of affiliations.

Smithsonian outreach programs increase connections between the Institution and targeted audiences (African American, Asian American, Latino, Native American, and new American) and provide kindergarten through college-age museum education and outreach opportunities.

These outreach programs enhance K–12 science education programs, facilitate the Smithsonian's scholarly interactions with students and scholars at universities, museums, and other research institutions; and disseminate results related to the research and collections strengths of the Institution.

The programs that provide the critical mass of Smithsonian outreach activity are:

1. the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES);
2. the Smithsonian Affiliations, the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies (SCEMS);
3. National Science Resources Center (NSRC);
4. the Smithsonian Institution Press (SIP);
5. the Office of Fellowships (OF); and
6. the Smithsonian Associates (TSA), which receives no federal funding.

To achieve the goal of increasing public engagement, SITES directs some of its federal resources to develop Smithsonian Across America: A Celebration of National Pride.

This "mobile museum," which will feature Smithsonian artifacts from the most iconic (presidential portraits, historic American flags, Civil War records, astronaut uniforms, etc.) to the simplest items of everyday life (family quilts, prairie schoolhouse furnishings, historic lunch boxes, multilingual store front and street

signs, etc.), has been a long-standing organizational priority of the Smithsonian.

SITES ''mobile museum'' is the only traveling exhibit format able to guarantee audience growth and expanded geographic distribution during sustained periods of economic retrenchment, but also because it is imperative for the many exhibitors nationwide who are struggling financially yet eager to participate in Smithsonian outreach.

For communities still struggling to fully recover from the economic downturn, the ability of museums to present temporary exhibitions, the ''mobile museum'' promises to answer an ever-growing demand for Smithsonian shows in the field.

A single, conventional SITES exhibit can reach a maximum of 12 locations over a two- to three-year period.

In contrast, a ''mobile museum'' exhibit can visit up to three venues per week in the course of only one year, at no cost to the host institution or community.

The net result is an increase by 150 in the number of outreach locations to which SITES shows can travel annually.

And in addition to its flexibility in making short-term stops in cities and towns from coast-to-coast, a ''mobile museum'' has the advantage of being able to frequent the very locations where people live, work, and take part in leisure time activities.

By establishing an exhibit presence in settings like these, SITES will not only increase its annual visitor participation by 1 million, but also advance a key Smithsonian performance objective: to develop exhibit approaches that address diverse audiences, including population groups not always affiliated with mainstream cultural institutions.

SITES also will be the public exhibitions' face of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, as that new Museum comes online.

Providing national access to projects that will introduce the American public to the Museum's mission, SITES in FY 2008 will tour such stirring exhibitions as NASA ART: 50 Years of Exploration; 381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story; Beyond: Visions of Planetary Landscapes; The Way We Worked: Photographs from the National Archives; and More Than Words: Illustrated Letters from the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art.

To meet the growing demand among smaller community and ethnic museums for an exhibition celebrating the Latino experience, SITES provided a scaled-down version of the National Museum of American History's 4,000-square-foot exhibition about legendary entertainer Celia Cruz.

Two 1,500-square-foot exhibitions, one about Crow Indian history and the other on basket traditions, will give Smithsonian visitors beyond Washington a taste of the Institution's critically acclaimed National Museum of the American Indian.

Two more exhibits, ''In Plane View'' and ''Earth from Space,'' provided visitors an opportunity to experience the Smithsonian's recently opened, expansive National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center.

For almost 30 years, The Smithsonian Associates—the highly regarded educational arm of the Smithsonian Institution—has arranged Scholars in the Schools programs.

Through this tremendously successful and well-received educational outreach program, the Smithsonian shares its staff—hundreds of experts in art, history and science—with the national community at a local level.

The mission of Smithsonian Affiliations is to build a strong national network of museums and educational organizations in order to establish active and engaging relationships with communities throughout the country.

There are currently 138 affiliates located in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Panama.

By working with museums of diverse subject areas and scholarly disciplines, both emerging and well-established, Smithsonian Affiliations is building partnerships through which audiences and visitors everywhere will be able to share in the great wealth of the Smithsonian while building capacity and expertise in local communities.

The National Science Resources Center (NSRC) strives to increase the number of ethnically diverse students participating in effective science programs based on NSRC products and services.

The Center develops and implements a national outreach strategy that will increase the number of school districts (currently more than 800) that are implementing NSRC K–8 programs.

The NSRC is striving to further enhance its program activity with a newly developed scientific outreach program introducing communities and school districts to science through literacy initiatives.

In addition, through the building of the multicultural Alliance Initiative, the Smithsonian's outreach programs seek to develop new approaches to enable the public to gain access to Smithsonian collections, research, education, and public programs that reflect the diversity of the American people, including underserved audiences of ethnic populations and persons with disabilities.

For all these reasons, Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment and thank Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member TIAHRT for their courtesies, consideration, and very fine work in putting together this excellent legislation.

I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment at this time and begin to work the process to provide funding to the Smithsonian for that purpose.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the operation of trust programs for Indians by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, $139,029,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $22,120,000 from this or any other Act, may be available for historical accounting: *Provided*, That funds for trust management improvements and litigation support may, as needed, be transferred to or merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, ''Operation of Indian Programs'' account; the Office of the Solicitor, ''Salaries and Expenses'' account; and the Office of the Secretary, ''Departmental Operations'' account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2016, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to provide a quarterly statement of performance for any Indian trust account that has not had activity for at least 15 months and has a balance of $15 or less: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue an annual account statement and maintain a record of any such accounts and shall permit the balance in each such account to be withdrawn upon the express written request of the account holder: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $50,000 is available for the Secretary to make payments to correct administrative errors of either disbursements from or deposits to Individual Indian Money or Tribal accounts after September 30, 2002: *Provided further*, That erroneous payments that are recovered shall be credited to and remain available in this account for this purpose: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not be required to reconcile Special Deposit Accounts with a balance of less than $500 unless the Office of the Special Trustee receives proof of ownership from a Special Deposit Accounts claimant.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for fire preparedness, fire suppression operations, fire science and research, emergency rehabilitation, hazardous fuels management activities, and rural fire assistance by the Department of the Interior, $804,795,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $6,127,000 shall be for the renovation or construction of fire facilities: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided $164,000,000 is for hazardous fuels management activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided $18,035,000 is for burned area rehabilitation: *Provided further*, That persons hired pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1469 may be furnished subsistence and lodging without cost from funds available from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 1856d, sums received by a bureau or office of the Department of the Interior for fire protection rendered pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1856 et seq., protection of United States property, may be credited to the appropriation from which funds were expended to provide that protection, and are available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That using the amounts designated under this title of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into procurement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, for hazardous fuels management and resilient landscapes activities, and for training and monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management and resilient landscapes activities on Federal land, or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, the Secretary, for purposes of hazardous fuels management and resilient landscapes activities, may obtain maximum practicable competition among: (1) local private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities; (2) Youth Conservation Corps crews, Public Lands Corps (Public

Law 109–154), or related partnerships with State, local, or nonprofit youth groups; (3) small or micro-businesses; or (4) other entities that will hire or train locally a significant percentage, defined as 50 percent or more, of the project workforce to complete such contracts: *Provided further*, That in implementing this section, the Secretary shall develop written guidance to field units to ensure accountability and consistent application of the authorities provided herein: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may use wildland fire appropriations to enter into leases of real property with local governments, at or below fair market value, to construct capitalized improvements for fire facilities on such leased properties, including but not limited to fire guard stations, retardant stations, and other initial attack and fire support facilities, and to make advance payments for any such lease or for construction activity associated with the lease: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed $50,000,000, between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That funds provided for wildfire suppression shall be available for support of Federal emergency response actions: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for assistance to or through the Department of State in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall be available to support forestry, wildland fire management, and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States and international organizations.

FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for large fire suppression operations of the Department of the Interior and as a reserve fund for suppression and Federal emergency response activities, $92,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts are only available for transfer to the ''Wildland Fire Management'' account following a declaration by the Secretary in accordance with section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a).

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior and any of its component offices and bureaus for the response action, including associated activities, performed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), $10,010,000, to remain available until expended.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

To conduct natural resource damage assessment, restoration activities, and onshore oil spill preparedness by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), and Public Law 101–337 (16 U.S.C. 19jj et seq.), $7,689,000, to remain available until expended.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For the operation and maintenance of a departmental financial and business management system, information technology improvements of general benefit to the Department, and the consolidation of facilities and operations throughout the Department, $56,529,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other Act may be used to establish reserves in the Working Capital Fund account other than for accrued annual leave and depreciation of equipment without prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may assess reasonable charges to State, local and tribal government employees for training services provided by the National Indian Program Training Center, other than training related to Public Law 93–638: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may lease or otherwise provide space and related facilities, equipment or professional services of the National Indian Program Training Center to State, local and tribal government employees or persons or organizations engaged in cultural, educational, or recreational activities (as defined in section 3306(a) of title 40, United States Code) at the prevailing rate for similar space, facilities, equipment, or services in the vicinity of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That all funds received pursuant to the two preceding provisos shall be credited to this account, shall be available until expended, and shall be used by the Secretary for necessary expenses of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into grants and cooperative agreements to support the Office of Natural Resource Revenue's collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, as authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

There is hereby authorized for acquisition from available resources within the Working Capital Fund, aircraft which may be obtained by donation, purchase or through available excess surplus property: *Provided*, That existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft.

GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—INTRA-BUREAU

SEC. 101. Appropriations made in this title shall be available for expenditure or transfer (within each bureau or office), with the approval of the Secretary, for the emergency reconstruction, replacement, or repair of aircraft, buildings, utilities, or other facilities or equipment damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other unavoidable causes: *Provided*, That no funds shall be made available under this authority until funds specifically made available to the Department of the Interior for emergencies shall have been exhausted: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible.

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—DEPARTMENT-WIDE

SEC. 102. The Secretary may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any no year appropriation in this title, in addition to the amounts included in the budget programs of the several agencies, for the suppression or emergency prevention of wildland fires on or threatening lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; for the emergency rehabilitation of burned-over lands under its jurisdiction; for emergency actions related to potential or actual earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, storms, or other unavoidable causes; for contingency planning subsequent to actual oil spills; for response and natural resource damage assessment activities related to actual oil spills or releases of hazardous substances into the environment; for the prevention, suppression, and control of actual or potential grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, pursuant to the authority in section 417(b) of Public Law 106–224 (7 U.S.C. 7717(b)); for emergency reclamation projects under section 410 of Public Law 95–87; and shall transfer, from any no year funds available to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, such funds as may be necessary to permit assumption of regulatory authority in the event a primacy State is not carrying out the regulatory provisions of the Surface Mining Act: *Provided*, That appropriations made in this title for wildland fire operations shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for destruction of vehicles, aircraft, or other equipment in connection with their use for wildland fire operations, such reimbursement to be credited to appropriations currently available at the time of receipt thereof: *Provided further*, That for wildland fire operations, no funds shall be made available under this authority until the Secretary determines that funds appropriated for ''wildland fire operations'' and ''FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund'' shall be exhausted within 30 days: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible: *Provided further*, That such replenishment funds shall be used to reimburse, on a pro rata basis, accounts from which emergency funds were transferred.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 103. Appropriations made to the Department of the Interior in this title shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, when authorized by the Secretary, in total amount not to exceed $500,000; purchase and replacement of motor vehicles, including specially equipped law enforcement vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of reprints; payment for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary; and the payment of dues, when authorized by the Secretary, for library membership in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS, INDIAN TRUST MANAGEMENT

SEC. 104. Appropriations made in this Act under the headings Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, and Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians and any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts made under the same headings shall be available for expenditure or

transfer for Indian trust management and reform activities. Total funding for historical accounting activities shall not exceed amounts specifically designated in this Act for such purpose.

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to redistribute any Tribal Priority Allocation funds, including tribal base funds, to alleviate tribal funding inequities by transferring funds to address identified, unmet needs, dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies. No tribe shall receive a reduction in Tribal Priority Allocation funds of more than 10 percent in fiscal year 2016. Under circumstances of dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies, the 10 percent limitation does not apply.

ELLIS, GOVERNORS, AND LIBERTY ISLANDS

SEC. 106. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands, waters, or interests therein including the use of all or part of any pier, dock, or landing within the State of New York and the State of New Jersey, for the purpose of operating and maintaining facilities in the support of transportation and accommodation of visitors to Ellis, Governors, and Liberty Islands, and of other program and administrative activities, by donation or with appropriated funds, including franchise fees (and other monetary consideration), or by exchange; and the Secretary is authorized to negotiate and enter into leases, subleases, concession contracts or other agreements for the use of such facilities on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine reasonable.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES

SEC. 107. (a) In fiscal year 2016, the Secretary shall collect a nonrefundable inspection fee, which shall be deposited in the ''Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement'' account, from the designated operator for facilities subject to inspection under 43 U.S.C. 1348(c).

(b) Annual fees shall be collected for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2016 shall be:

(1) $10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

(2) $17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

(3) $31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

(c) Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2016. Fees for fiscal year 2016 shall be:

(1) $30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 500 feet or more; and

(2) $16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(d) The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (b) within 60 days, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (c) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days of billing.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT REORGANIZATION

SEC. 108. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to implement a reorganization of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, may transfer funds among and between the successor offices and bureaus affected by the reorganization only in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in the report accompanying this Act.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO HOLDING FACILITIES

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and other appropriate entities, and may enter into multiyear contracts in accordance with the provisions of section 3903 of title 41, United States Code (except that the 5-year term restriction in subsection (a) shall not apply), for the long-term care and maintenance of excess wild free roaming horses and burros by such organizations or entities on private land. Such cooperative agreements and contracts may not exceed 10 years, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary.

MASS MARKING OF SALMONIDS

SEC. 110. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall, in carrying out its responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species of salmon, implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks, intended for harvest, that are released from federally operated or federally financed hatcheries including but not limited to fish releases of coho, chinook, and steelhead species. Marked fish must have a visible mark that can be readily identified by commercial and recreational fishers.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

SEC. 111. Section 122(a)(1) of division E of Public Law 112–74 (125 Stat. 1013) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2012 through 2016'' and inserting ''fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter''.

WILD LANDS FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order No. 3310 issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 22, 2010.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION OPERATED SCHOOLS

SEC. 113. Section 115(d) of division E of Public Law 112–74 (25 U.S.C. 2000 note) is amended by striking ''2017'' and inserting ''2027''.

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

SEC. 114. Section 102301(d) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$3,500,000'' and inserting ''$7,000,000''.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS WITH INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 115. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2016, in carrying out work involving cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments or any political subdivision thereof, Indian Affairs may record obligations against accounts receivable from any such entities, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of the fiscal year.

HERITAGE AREAS

SEC. 116. (a) Section 157(h)(1) of title I of Public Law 106–291 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking ''$11,000,000'' and inserting ''$13,000,000''.

(b) Division II of Public Law 104–333 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended—

(1) in sections 409(a), 508(a), and 812(a) by striking ''$15,000,000'' and inserting ''$17,000,000''; and

(2) in sections 208, 310, and 607 by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2017''.

SAGE-GROUSE

SEC. 117. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to write or issue pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533)—

(1) a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*);

(2) a proposed rule for the Columbia basin distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse.

OFFSHORE PAY AUTHORITY EXTENSION

SEC. 118. Section 117 of division G of Public Law 113–76 is amended by striking ''and 2015'' and inserting ''through 2017''.

ONSHORE PAY AUTHORITY EXTENSION

SEC. 119. Section 123 of division G of Public Law 113–76 is amended by striking ''and 2015'' and inserting ''through 2017''.

IVORY

SEC. 120. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to draft, prepare, implement, or enforce any new or revised regulation or order that—

(1) prohibits or restricts, within the United States, the possession, sale, delivery, receipt, shipment, or transportation of ivory that has been lawfully imported into the United States;

(2) changes any means of determining, including any applicable presumptions concerning, when ivory has been lawfully imported; or

(3) prohibits or restricts the importation of ivory that was lawfully importable into the United States as of February 1, 2014.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

Mr. GRIJALVA. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BISHOP of Michigan). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Beginning at page 59, line 9, strike section 120.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, last week, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service destroyed a 1-ton stockpile of illegal elephant ivory. Most of it was seized up from a Philadelphia antique dealer named Victor Gordon.

For at least 9 years, Gordon imported and sold ivory from freshly killed African elephants in violation of U.S. law and the laws of the countries where the elephants were poached and the ivory stolen.

How did he get away with this for so long? The ivory was doctored so that it looked old enough to pass through a loophole in the enforcement of the African Elephant Conservation Act, a law that was passed in 1989 to end the commercial import and export of ivory.

While a ton of ivory was confiscated, there is no way to know how much Gordon had sold during the previous decade or where it is now. All we know for certain is all of it was illegal, all of it is nearly impossible to distinguish from antique ivory, and anyone who bought it from Gordon, resells it, or buys it from a new owner is contributing to the ongoing slaughter of elephants and the criminal trafficking of ivory that supports organized crime and terrorism.

This has got to stop. How many more Victor Gordons are out there? The amount is a question that can't be answered. The amount of ivory seized from his shop represents 100 elephants, roughly the same number killed every day in Africa.

The photo we wanted to enlarge was a photo of an Africa elephant that had been killed and its head decapitated and the ivory butchered out of its head. Upon review, it was decided that it was too graphic and disturbing for the Chamber and for the floor, and we didn't bring that one.

While much of this poaching is fueled by demand for ivory in Asia, a significant black market exists in the United States, as evidenced by the Gordon case and similar State level investigations in New York City and elsewhere.

The only way—and I repeat—the only way to keep U.S. citizens from being involved, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in this elephant poaching and trafficking crisis is to close the enforcement loopholes and eliminate the commercial import, export, and trade of Africa elephant ivory in this country.

That is precisely what the Obama administration is trying to do by proposing new rules to limit ivory trade in the United States. Instead of assisting in this important cause, House Republicans have slipped a rider into the appropriations bill to kill the new rule before it is even finalized.

My amendment would remove this rider. Ending the commercial ivory trade does not mean taking away people's musical instruments, as some have said, ivory-handled pistols, or family heirlooms. Museum collections, scientific specimens, and sport-hunted trophies will also be allowed to move freely. Further, items containing very small amounts of ivory can be bought and sold.

Profiteering off elephant parts will no longer be allowed, nor should it be. As long as ivory has monetary value, people will kill elephants to get it. Eliminating value will eliminate demand and that will reduce wildlife poaching and trafficking.

I understand the administration's proposed ivory rule is due out very shortly, and in the interest of giving everyone a chance to review that rule, I will withdraw this amendment today.

However, I will not hesitate to return with a similar amendment later if that is what it takes to remove this damaging rider from the bill.

I ask, Mr. Chairman, unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

REISSUANCE OF FINAL RULES

SEC. 121. Before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall reissue the final rule published on December 28, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 81666 et seq.) and the final rule published on September 10, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 55530 et seq.), without regard to any other provision of statute or regulation that applies to issuance of such rules. Such reissuances (including this section) shall not be subject to judicial review.

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

SEC. 122. Before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall amend the interim rule pertaining to the northern long-eared bat published by the Department of the Interior in the Federal Register on April 2, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 17974 et seq.), only in such a way that—

(1) take incidental to any activity conducted in accordance with the habitat conservation measures identified at pages 18024 to 18205 of volume 80 of the Federal Register (April 2, 2015), as applicable, is not prohibited; and

(2) the public comment period for such interim rule is reopened for not less than 90 days.

ECHINODERMS

SEC. 123. Section 14.21(a)(1) of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, is amended by inserting '', including echinoderms commonly known as sea urchins and sea cucumbers,'' after ''products''.

TITLE II—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, $704,918,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, $7,100,000 shall be for Research: National Priorities as specified in the report accompanying this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 61, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,625,000)''.

Page 62, lines 8 and 13, after each dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Rhode Island and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment, which I am offering with my good friends, Mr. KEATING and Mr. CICILLINE, will provide $1 million to the southern New England estuaries geographic program. This program was funded at $5 million last year and has been incredibly successful at leveraging resources, bringing stakeholders together, and increasing efficiencies.

Estuaries are essential for healthy coastal ecosystems. They provide benefits of great economic and ecologic significance, including vital nesting and feeding habitats for aquatic plants and animals; yet they are increasingly affected by impacts of human activity along our coasts. These funds will be used to continue efforts to protect and restore our coasts and estuaries, which are critical for our environment and our economy.

The southern New England estuaries geographic program supports projects and science to restore the health of southeastern New England's estuaries watersheds and coastal waters and ensure access now and in the future to resilient, self-sustaining ecosystems and associated populations of our fish and shellfish.

I would like to take a moment to say that the account that we are reallocating from, EPA science and technology, is also critically important. While we would have liked to offer an amendment increasing the southern New England estuary geographic program to its full funding amount of $5 million, there were neither sufficient nor appropriate offsets in this bill to do so.

Mr. Chair, I hope that as our appropriators go to conference with the Senate, they are able to restore the full funding amount of $5 million for this important program.

I would also like to thank Congressman KEATING, along with Congressman CICILLINE, for being tremendous partners in ensuring that our southern New England estuaries are restored and stay healthy for generations to come.

I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT, Ranking Member MCCOLLUM, and their staffs who worked on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the funding for the southern New England estuary geographic program.

I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my good friend and colleague, to speak on the amendment.

□ 1615

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding.

I also would like to express my gratitude to Mr. KEATING, who unfortunately could not be with us today, for his hard work on this important issue, and I thank my colleague from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for his elegant words.

Mr. Chairman, the estuaries in Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island and Buzzards Bay in Massachusetts face significant environmental challenges, many shared by estuaries across the country. These challenges include rivers and streams that are disconnected from the landscape, the loss of critical wetlands, the impacts of centuries of urbanization and development, and aging infrastructure.

Southern New England estuaries are especially threatened by these challenges. Yet despite the harm that we know is being done to our estuaries, southern New England was the only geographic region in this bill which saw

all of its estuary funding eliminated. While some geographic regions were underfunded compared to fiscal year 2016 requests, most requests for geographic regions were either met or, in some cases, increased. Inexplicably, it was only southern New England that was singled out for complete elimination of funding for the next fiscal year.

This amendment would restore a modest $1 million funding for southern New England estuaries program, as Congressman LANGEVIN said. Then, at conference, we hope that full funding is restored.

The southern New England watershed has experienced more than 400 years of ecological degradation, which is further exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Rivers and waterways have become disconnected from the watershed, which has led to the absorption of nitrogen and other pollutants from sources such as septic systems, treatment plants, and storm water runoff.

The funding provided to these geographic programs allows for essential collaboration between Federal entities, nonprofit and academic institutions, and other private entities to formulate innovative solutions and to produce new technologies to create cleaner and clearer waterways. For example, in fiscal year 2014, more than $65,000 in grants was awarded to the Narragansett Bay watershed. This funded projects run by Save the Bay in my district, including an education and awareness project for residents and businesses on Aquidneck Island as well as a partnership program involving the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to facilitate site visits to more than 200 shoreline rights-of-way to determine any needed levels of improvement to public access.

Programs like these have proven to be effective. In fact, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program was awarded a 2015 Environmental Merit Award from EPA New England for outstanding contributions on behalf of southern New England's public health and natural environment. These collaborative efforts throughout the southern New England region with continued funding will help to support projects to protect ecological habitats, foster self-sustaining ecosystems, and protect wildlife. Federal collaboration and investment is essential to helping local communities apply for and receive funding.

I thank my colleague from Rhode Island and my colleague from Massachusetts for the great work they have done on this issue.

I urge passage of this amendment by all of my colleagues.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, but I don't oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CALVERT. I would be happy to work with the gentlemen, and I would urge acceptance of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his support of the amendment as well as my colleague and Mr. KEATING. As I said, this is such an important amendment. It includes important funding for protecting our ecosystems.

I urge passage of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; administrative costs of the brownfields program under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002; and not to exceed $9,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $2,472,289,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, $12,700,000 shall be for Environmental Protection: National Priorities as specified in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds included under this heading, $403,523,000 shall be for Geographic Programs specified in the report accompanying this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,212,000) (increased by $2,212,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman CALVERT and his staff for working with me on this amendment. It simply seeks to decrease and then increase by the same amount within the $2.5 billion appropriation for the environmental programs and management account within the Environmental Protection Agency. More specifically, my amendment seeks to remove and then reapply $2.2 million from that account.

The intent behind my amendment is simple. It is to put the House on record of supporting a final funding amount of $27,310,000 for the National Estuary Program and coastal waterways.

Currently, the report accompanying this bill calls for $25,098,000 for the National Estuary Program and coastal waterways, which is $2,212,000 below both the Senate's proposed appropriations level and the President's request for fiscal year 2016. Hence, the amount specified in my amendment.

The National Estuary Program and coastal waterways subaccount within the EPA does important work, including work in my State, especially on the Atlantic Coast. It addresses ocean acidification, seeks to remove coastal watersheds, furthers the National Estuary Program's restoration goals, and assists in the implementation of the very important Gulf of Mexico hypoxia action plan.

Mr. Chairman, there is an area, a large area called the dead zone off of Louisiana that literally stinks. It has no fish. It has no recreational opportunities. It has no fishing. It is, in fact, a scar on the face of the Earth. Part of the funding for this program is used to try to overcome the hypoxia situation that has arisen off the coast of Louisiana that threatens to spread not only to Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi, but also to the coast of my State of Florida, eventually, if we do nothing about it.

The estuarine regions of the United States comprise just 12 percent of land area of the United States, but they contain 43 percent of the U.S. population and provide 49 percent of all U.S. economic output. The economic value of coastal recreation alone in the United States—beach going, fishing, bird watching, snorkeling, diving, and so on—has conservatively been estimated by NOAA to be between $20 billion and $60 billion annually.

Clearly, the $2.2 million increase in funding for the National Estuary Program and coastal waterways that I am seeking will result in dramatic returns for the American economy, an enhanced quality of life for the American people, and eliminate that scar on the face of planet Earth that exists off the coast of Louisiana and should never be allowed to spread.

Mr. Chairman, I know that you support this amendment, and I am thankful for your support. With that in mind, I will stop talking before I lose your support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MOONEY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 62, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the fiscal year 2016 Interior Appropriations bill that will help strengthen transparency and oversight at the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA. My amendment simply provides $1 million in additional funding for the Office of Inspector General at the EPA.

I thank Chairman KEN CALVERT for working with me on this amendment.

Under the current administration, the EPA has waged an all-out war on jobs in the beautiful Second District of West Virginia and on communities across America. With this backdrop, I think it is absolutely critical that we strengthen oversight and transparency at the EPA. Taxpayers deserve to know what is going on behind the curtain.

The Office of the Inspector General plays a critical oversight role within the EPA. It is the independent office that works diligently to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. For example, a May 28, 2015, report found that two separate EPA employees were viewing pornography at work for up to 6 hours a day, and they were paid in the neighborhood of $120,000 a year while doing it.

The same report found that Renee Page, who at the time was Director of the EPA's Office of Administration, allegedly sold jewelry and weight loss pills out of her office. But she didn't stop there with her abuses. She hired not one, not two, but 17 family members and friends for paid internships at the EPA.

These are just two examples of the incredible abuses of public trust and of taxpayer dollars that occur at the EPA. Without rigorous oversight from the inspector general, these abuses might never have been exposed.

My amendment provides additional oversight funding without increasing the budgetary impact of the fiscal year 2016 Interior Appropriations bill. We pull the money from the Office of Public Affairs, which is the office responsible for promoting the administration's radical environmental agenda, and use it instead for oversight.

I would encourage my colleagues today to cast their vote in favor of my amendment.

Mr. CALVERT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to support this amendment. I appreciate the gentleman's bringing it up, and I encourage everyone to adopt it.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MOONEY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 132, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike $2 million in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Policy and transfer those funds to the deficit reduction account.

The Office of Policy is located within the EPA Office of the Administrator and is the primary policy arm for the Agency, or what I have been calling the regulatory nerve center. The funding for this office directly supports this administration's radical regulatory agenda that is putting an alarming number of my constituents out of work, and they are not shy about it.

The head of the EPA's Office of Policy, Joel Beauvais, on October 13, 2014, boasted to a group of New York University law students that his office ''coordinates the process through which all of the EPA's rules are developed, including the clean power plan.''

Well, the so-called clean power plan is projected to increase energy costs by as much as $479 billion over the next 15 years. For my constituents in the beautiful Second District of West Virginia, that means an average electricity price increase of 12 percent. This is something we cannot afford. Yesterday, on the floor of this Chamber, we passed the ratepayer protection plan, which will stop the clean power plan, but the Office of Policy is coordinating more than just the clean power plan. The EPA issues about 150 new regulations each year, and this office is right at the center.

Another rule that deserves attention is the EPA's proposed ozone standard. The National Association of Manufacturers found that this new regulation could reduce the United States' GDP by $207 billion to $360 billion annually, leading to 2.9 million fewer jobs between now and 2040.

It is clear that the EPA, under this administration, will continue to promote their radical environmentalist agenda through an enormous number of rules and regulations. We have to slow this process, and that is why I propose this amendment to cut the Office of Policy funding by $2 million. I would encourage my colleagues today to cast their vote in favor of my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1630

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The gentleman's amendment would cut $2 million from the Office of Policy and Program and put the savings into the so-called spending reduction account. If enacted, this would cut an already barebones bill that is plagued by policy riders and further erode our environment.

I am concerned that this cut could have great influence on what the policy division does in its relationship in working with States and divisions within States, community assistance, and its research division.

I would also point out to my colleagues that the spending reduction account has never been enacted into law in the 4 years it has been proposed, so there really isn't an account I know of that has been authorized where this fund could go.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and to keep the Office of Policy able to do its work that impacts on our States and local community.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. I agree with the gentleman's amendment. I would urge its adoption.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TIPTON

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000)''.

Page 79, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $20,000,000)''.

Page 80, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $20,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member MCCOLLUM for their collaborative efforts in putting together this bill that carefully and thoughtfully allocates limited resources in order to conserve and restore our Nation's precious natural resources.

As you know, States across the Nation, especially those in the West, face widespread drought and deteriorating forest health conditions, all of which increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires and the tragic loss of life and property.

Furthermore, these forest health conditions and the wildfires wreak havoc on species habitat; recreational economies; critical infrastructure; and clean, abundant water supplies.

In 2014, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior agencies spent over $1.5 million in fire suppression costs to combat fires on more than $3.5 million acres of private, State, and Federal lands.

These suppression costs will only continue to rise if we do not appropriately address the critical issues of wildfire preparation, including hazardous fuel management activities.

For far too long, we have been addressing the problem after the fact. That course of action has led to decades of declining healthy forests and a staggering increase in the occurrence of catastrophic wildfires, putting people, communities, and ecosytems at risk.

In fiscal year 2015, Congress provided a $75 million increase for hazardous fuels management. I applaud Chairman CALVERT and my colleagues for spearheading these efforts, but we can do more.

Today, I am offering a simple amendment that will bolster the wildfire management system account on the National Forest System lands by $20 million, allowing the Forest Service to be able to expand ongoing work on hazardous fuels reduction and fire mitigation projects.

Quite simply, the cost of proactive healthy forest management is far less than the cost of wildfire suppression and cleaning up devastating aftermaths.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), a cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado bringing this amendment.

In the West, we are finding that our States are being burned up. They are burned up because the forests are simply full of fuel that has not been cut or logged for the last 20, 30 years. These are internal decisions that were created by an inappropriate listing of the spotted owl, declaring that timber reduction was the reason the spotted owl was going extinct.

A couple of years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Service reversed that, saying: Oops, logging had nothing to do with it.

It doesn't matter. Now, the damage is done. Our forests are chock-full of fuels. It has been extraordinarily dry through the West. Small sparks set off tremendous blazes. The wind always blows in the West. We find these raging while fires that weren't in existence 30, 40, and 50 years ago because nature was pretty well in harmony.

The idea of the gentleman is simply to put more money into the fuels reduction account. That is a commonsense solution that will save us in the West, save our valuable resources, save our valuable forests, and it will make sense for the country.

I support the amendment and would urge its adoption.

Mr. TIPTON. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman.

Mr. CALVERT. I certainly agree with you. We need to improve the condition of our national forests. My home of California, as you know, is going through an exceptional drought. Colorado is just not sending enough water down the Colorado River, so you need to help us out a little bit.

This hazardous fuel issue is a huge issue in my area. As you know, we have the blight issue that is just killing trees because we have too many trees in the forests, and it has weakened the forests.

This is a good amendment, and I certainly urge its adoption.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, while I certainly appreciate the challenges that so many Western States are facing right now with the drought and very frightening wildfires, I need to oppose this.

Unlike most programs in H.R. 2822, especially within the Forest Service, the base hazardous fuels program received a $10 million increase above the FY 2015 enacted level.

There is a reduction in H.R. 2822 to the biomass grant portion of the hazardous fuels program, but I see nothing in this amendment that addresses that cut.

We would all like to see increases in funding for many programs funded by the bill. Chairman CALVERT has certainly been a strong advocate for a robust wildland fire program, including hazardous fuels. Coming from the fire-prone State of California, as he just mentioned, he knows as well as anyone that our fire programs needs support, and he has funded that accordingly.

To provide what would be a record level of funding for hazardous fuels, the sponsor of this amendment would cut an additional $20 million from the EPA, which is why I feel it is important to oppose this amendment.

This bill already severely cuts the EPA's main operating account by $141.4 million, or 5 percent. I strongly oppose an amendment that takes more money from the already starved EPA. The very air we breathe and the water we drink are endangered by the funding and policy decisions made in this bill, and their consequences will be negatively felt in communities across this Nation.

I know cutting EPA is an easy target for many of my colleagues across the aisle, but I want to make sure that my colleagues understand what this amendment would cut if it was adopted.

This account funds programs that are important to both sides of the aisle, including permitting for construction projects across the country, toxics risk prevention, the cleanup of toxic waste sites, pesticide licensing, and radiation prevention.

EPA's work goes beyond the political talking point of scary regulations and is necessary to keep vulnerable populations safe from environmental disasters. It is beyond reason, frankly, to cut the very Federal employees that have ably responded to the disasters such as the BP oil spill and the coal ash spill in Kingston, Tennessee, in 2008.

I do not support gutting the EPA further, and I oppose this amendment. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, the current Environmental Protection Agency likes to applaud itself that it is a champion of clean air and clean water. For those of us who live in the West, this is not a political talking point. This is reality.

If you care about clean air, think about the carbon that is emitted from wildfires. Think about the devastation to the wildlife habitat as our forests burn. Think about clean water as ash is washed down through the ravines into very narrow watersheds where we have endangered species residing as well.

I would submit, Mr. Chairman, that we actually put action through our words in terms of being proactive and in terms of addressing forest health. If you care about clean water, if you care about endangered species, if you care about clean air, this is an opportunity to actually allow us to be able to move the ball forward, to be able to address what the Environmental Protection Agency says it is about—that is clean air, clean water.

This amendment will help achieve that goal, and encourage my colleagues to adopt it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency, $34,467,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611) $1,088,769,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2015, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to $1,088,769,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $8,459,000 shall be paid to the ''Office of Inspector General'' appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2017, and $16,217,000 shall be paid to the ''Science and Technology'' appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2017.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, $91,941,000, to remain available until expended, of which $66,572,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; $25,369,000 shall be for carrying out the other provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.

INLAND OIL SPILL PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, $17,944,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, $2,979,829,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) $1,018,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and of which $757,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2016, funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants may, at the discretion of each State, be used for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the limitation on the amounts in a State water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts included as principal in loans made by such fund in fiscal year 2016 and prior years where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund to the extent that such amounts are or were deemed reasonable by the Administrator, accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, and used for eligible purposes of the fund, including administration: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or $30,000,000, whichever is greater, and notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or $20,000,000, whichever is greater, for State Revolving Funds under such Acts may be reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) and section 1452(i) of such Acts: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding the amounts specified in section 205(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program under the Act less any sums reserved under section 518(c) of the Act, may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and United States Virgin Islands: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding the limitations on amounts specified in section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and 20 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these), and shall be so used by the State only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) $5,000,000 shall be for architectural, engineering, planning, design, construction and related activities in connection with the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the United States-Mexico Border, after consultation with the appropriate border commission; *Provided*, That no funds provided by this appropriations Act to address the water, wastewater and other critical infrastructure needs of the colonias in the United States along the United States-Mexico border shall be made available to a county or municipal government unless that government has established an enforceable local ordinance, or other zoning rule, which prevents in that jurisdiction the development or construction of any additional colonia areas, or the development within an existing colonia the construction of any new home, business, or other structure which lacks water, wastewater, or other necessary infrastructure;

(3) $10,000,000 shall be for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages: *Provided*, That of these funds: (A) the State of Alaska shall provide a match of 25 percent; (B) no more than 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative and overhead expenses; and (C) the State of Alaska shall make awards consistent with the Statewide priority list established in conjunction with the Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all water, sewer, waste disposal, and similar projects carried out by the State of Alaska that are funded under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301) or the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) which shall allocate not less than 25 percent of the funds provided for projects in regional hub communities;

(4) $75,000,000 shall be to carry out section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including grants, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs: *Provided*, That not more than 25 percent of the amount appropriated to carry out section 104(k) of CERCLA shall be used for site characterization, assessment, and remediation of facilities described in section 101(39)(D)(ii)(II) of CERCLA;

(5) $50,000,000 shall be for grants under title VII, subtitle G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;

(6) $20,000,000 shall be for targeted airshed grants in accordance with the terms and conditions of the report accompanying this Act; and

(7) $1,044,829,000 shall be for grants, including associated program support costs, to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement and related activities, including activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104–134, and for making grants under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for particulate matter monitoring and data collection activities subject to terms and conditions specified by the Administrator, of which: $47,745,000 shall be for carrying out section 128 of CERCLA; $9,646,000 shall be for Environmental Information Exchange Network grants, including associated program support costs; $1,498,000 shall be for grants to States under section 2007(f)(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which shall be in addition to funds appropriated under the heading ''Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program'' to carry out the provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code other than section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; $17,848,000 of the funds available for grants under section 106 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act shall be for State participation in national- and State-level statistical surveys of water resources and enhancements to State monitoring programs.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 65, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $861,000,000)''.

Page 65, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $432,000,000)''.

Page 65, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $429,000,000)''.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from California and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, although I had planned to withdraw my amendment, I feel it is important to discuss the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the benefits these funds provide to our Nation.

Droughts are becoming more severe, which is putting an incredible strain on our water supply in California, and in my district, where we are experiencing a historic drought for the last 4 years. We have to manage our available water in smart and efficient ways.

We lose an estimated 7 billion gallons of water a day from leaking pipes, with some cities losing as much as 30 percent of their water. At the same time, these cracks expose the water supply to an increasing number of waterborne diseases and contaminants. This means utilities face considerable challenges as they try to provide both adequate and safe drinking water to families and businesses.

Upgrading our infrastructure would save trillions of gallons of water a year and make our water safer to drink, but the best part is that, according to the American Water Works Association, there are already enough shovel-ready water projects around the United States that would create work for more than 400,000 Americans, including almost 90,000 direct construction jobs. These are jobs that would be welcomed with open arms in our towns and cities across the United States.

Our Nation's water infrastructure is in desperate need of repair. According to an infrastructure needs survey by the EPA, nearly $335 billion worth of repairs, upgrades, and replacements are needed by water systems in the next 20 years to continue providing safe drinking water and protecting public health. Almost $300 billion is needed to repair and replace wastewater and storm water pipes and treatment plants.

Furthermore, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies estimate that utilities will need to spend $448 billion to $944 billion by 2050 just to deal with climate change impacts.

Considering the significant water infrastructure needs our country is facing, the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds have never been more important.

□ 1645

These funds help finance projects that handle and treat domestic sewage and storm water and deliver drinking water to homes and businesses. These infrastructure investments also create jobs and have a positive impact on the economy well beyond the amount spent.

Unfortunately, the bill proposes significant—and I want to repeat that—significant reductions to drinking water SFRs and over a $400 million cut in the Clean Water Act sewage treatment SFRs.

The Nation's water infrastructure needs already exceed the available funding, and cutting the revolving funds by this much means that a greater number of deserving community projects will not be able to get done. This approach will only imperil our infrastructure and our healthy communities that it helps foster.

Congress should commit to providing the necessary funding to maintain and upgrade our Nation's ailing water infrastructure and make sure that the green infrastructure is a critical part of that process.

My State of California is doing its best to cope with a severe and ongoing drought, and Congress must do its best to fund and support the needed infrastructure and water quality enhancements that preserve our precious water resources and create a sustainable system.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 68, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following: ''; *Provided further*, That an entity shall not be an eligible recipient for a grant under this paragraph unless the entity has experienced at least 15 percent population loss since 1970, as measured by data from the 2010 decennial census and has experienced prolonged population, income, and employment loss resulting in substantial levels of housing vacancy and abandonment and such housing vacancies and abandonments are concentrated in more than one neighborhood or geographic area within a jurisdiction or jurisdictions.''.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, my hometown of Flint, Michigan, has endured decades of job loss and population loss through the slow, painful erosion of our manufacturing base. Previous trade deals, population shifts, bad land use management, and trade deals like NAFTA, for example, have accelerated the job losses in my hometown.

That has had the effect of reducing local revenues, creating lower housing prices, less local services, and less investments in things that matter the most, like infrastructure, including our own water system. To reinvest in those places costs money that the cities don't have.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund was specifically designed to assist communities with maintaining and improving water infrastructure. This fund provides critical support to ensure safe, clean drinking water is available in our communities.

Many of us represent communities, however, that have outstanding loans issued under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund from prior to 2009, and those loan funds are ineligible for certain types of help because of the timing of those loans.

In Flint, our current water system loses over a third of the treated water due to decades-old delivery systems before it even reaches the faucets in homes and businesses. This city has relied on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to improve this system, but the challenge and the cost is immense.

The cost is even more daunting when the city is working to pull itself out of an economic downturn that has lasted not just a few years, but has lasted decades.

So we should, as Congress, give these communities the tools that they need to build bridges and roads, to fix their aging water systems, and bring, most importantly, economic development. My amendment would be an important step to doing this.

First, it would allow current revolving loan funds to be used to provide loan forgiveness to cities that have outstanding loans, regardless of the date of the incurrence of that loan. Prior to 2009, those loans are not eligible for loan forgiveness. Loans incurred after 2009 are actually eligible for forgiveness. So the first option, we would like to see those pre-2009 loans eligible for forgiveness.

Second, the option to use new funds to provide loan forgiveness on prior loans is limited because these cities have had—this amendment would limit that loan forgiveness to cities that have had significant financial problems due to population loss, cities that have had a population loss of more than 15 percent since 1970 and also have a high rate of abandoned and vacant buildings—basically, the cities that are in no position right now to finance improvements to their system just because of the level of abandonment, the level of population loss, and the revenue loss associated with it.

Allowing financially distressed cities like Flint to have loans forgiven will bring some stability to these communities and allow them to better serve their residents.

So I ask for support for this amendment to help communities across the country, like Flint, the backbone of the American economy in the 20th century, so that they can again become leaders in the 21st century.

If we don't re-invest in those places and find ways to do that, we are going

to have a difficult time having them join the economy in a way that really makes a difference for the people who live there.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

''An amendment in a general appropriations bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment requires a determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, other than to say that I will continue to press every opportunity I have to find a way to help these communities.

I understand the gentleman's point of order, and I will continue to work with him and any other Member of this body that will help me find a path forward to help communities like this community of Flint that is really struggling to deliver clean water to its residents.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring new determinations, such as levels of population loss and housing vacancy.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For fiscal year 2016, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 6303(1) and 6305(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in carrying out the Agency's function to implement directly Federal environmental programs required or authorized by law in the absence of an acceptable tribal program, may award cooperative agreements to federally recognized Indian tribes or Intertribal consortia, if authorized by their member tribes, to assist the Administrator in implementing Federal environmental programs for Indian tribes required or authorized by law, except that no such cooperative agreements may be awarded from funds designated for State financial assistance agreements.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate pesticide registration service fees in accordance with section 33 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8).

Notwithstanding section 33(d)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(d)(2)), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may assess fees under section 33 of FIFRA (7 U.S.C. 136w-8) for fiscal year 2016.

The Administrator is authorized to transfer up to $300,000,000 of the funds appropriated for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under the heading ''Environmental Programs and Management'' to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of such head, to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement programs, projects, or activities; to enter into an interagency agreement with the head of such Federal department or agency to carry out these activities; and to make grants to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and individuals for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation in furtherance of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The Science and Technology, Environmental Programs and Management, Office of Inspector General, Hazardous Substance Superfund, and Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program Accounts, are available for the construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities provided that the cost does not exceed $150,000 per project.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall base agency policies and actions regarding air emissions from forest biomass including, but not limited to, air emissions from facilities that combust forest biomass for energy, on the principle that forest biomass emissions do not increase overall carbon dioxide accumulations in the atmosphere when USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis data show that forest carbon stocks in the U.S. are stable or increasing on a national scale, or when forest biomass is derived from mill residuals, harvest residuals or forest management activities. Such policies and actions shall not pre-empt existing authorities of States to determine how to utilize biomass as a renewable energy source and shall not inhibit States' authority to apply the same policies to forest biomass as other renewable fuels in implementing Federal law.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 73, strike lines 8 through 23.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, my amendment would correct the assertion in this bill that all forest biomass is carbon neutral. The assertion is simply scientifically inaccurate.

In 2012, EPA's Scientific Advisory Board directly challenged the claim that all forest biomass is carbon neutral, explaining that while some types of carbon biomass may indeed be, it is inappropriate to assume that all types of forest biomass are carbon neutral. This misperception could have serious consequences for wildlife habitat and for our ability to combat climate change in the coming years. In fact, numerous studies have underscored that using some types of forest biomass, particularly slow-growing trees, can actually increase atmospheric carbon for many decades.

The New York Times this Tuesday mentioned a study commissioned by the State of Massachusetts that indicated that the climate impacts of burning wood were worse than those for coal for 45 years and worse than that for natural gas for 90 years.

To know what types of biomass are truly low-carbon, scientists need to actually assess them, and treating all forest biomass as carbon neutral is risky. The Energy Information Administration has found that this will lead to a boom in the use of forest and other biomass for energy.

While this sounds like a good idea on the surface, the resulting logging would have dire consequences for climate mitigation and wildlife habitat. It would also drive up the price of pulpwood and other lower grades of wood for wood-product industries.

In my State of Virginia, local environmental organizations are concerned that if biomass is treated as carbon neutral, it would encourage Dominion Virginia Power to burn wood from forests to meet its emission reduction obligations. Dominion has already converted three of its existing coal plants to run on biomass fuel and has a hybrid energy center that can burn up to 20 percent biomass for fuel.

I share the concern of these local groups that Virginia will become known as a State that harvests forests to reduce its dependence on coal, rather than developing renewable technologies that clearly reduce emissions, such as solar and wind. More broadly, I worry about the precedent that this will set for forest management policy in the U.S. and around the world.

We have already seen that under the European Emissions Trading System, where biomass has a zero emissions rating, European companies have invested billions to convert coal plants to plants that can burn wood pellets, leading to an incredible demand for wood. Earlier this month, The Washington Post reported that Europe's climate policies have led to more U.S. trees being cut down as wood pellets are being exported to meet the demand for wood fuel.

More than two dozen pellet factories have been constructed in the southeastern U.S. over the past decade, along with special port facilities in Virginia and Georgia to ship the wood to Europe. Demand for wood in Europe is so robust that wood pellet exports from the U.S. nearly doubled from 2012 to 2013 and are expected to nearly double again this year.

We should not create artificial demand to meet scientifically unsubstantiated goals. It is critical that we make sure that the accounting used to estimate net biogenic emissions is scientifically accurate before we implement policies that might add carbon pollution rather than reduce it.

Mr. Chair, I will withdraw this amendment, but I do so urging my colleagues to support policies that are scientifically accurate, and to realize that not all forest biomass is carbon neutral, and that the EPA should take that into consideration.

I look forward to working with the chairman and the ranking member to more appropriately consider biomass.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Of the unobligated balances available for ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants'' account, $8,000,000 are permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For fiscal year 2016, and notwithstanding section 518(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(f)), the Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated for any fiscal year under section 319 of the Act to make grants to federally recognized Indian tribes pursuant to sections 319(h) and 518(e) of that Act.

TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, $277,507,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, $70,000,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, and others, and for forest health management, including treatments of pests, pathogens, and invasive or noxious plants and for restoring and rehabilitating forests damaged by pests or invasive plants, cooperative forestry, and education and land conservation activities and conducting an international program as authorized, $220,665,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized by law; of which $50,660,000 is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, $1,490,093,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, $40,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f): *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, $355,000,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, up to $81,941,000 is for the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program for Region 1, Region 3 and Region 4: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for forest products, up to $65,560,000 may be transferred to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer to the Secretary of the Interior any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for operation of the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BENISHEK

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 75, line 14, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 76, line 8, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 333, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2822, the fiscal year 2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Mr. Chairman, my district covers nearly half the State of Michigan and includes three Federal forests. These forests are a major vacation destination for people, not only in my district, but in districts of Members all across the country.

Yet, sadly, many of our constituents arrive to the Federal forests of northern Michigan to find that the road to their favorite fishing spot or hiking trail or ORV path has been arbitrarily closed by the Forest Service, with no warning and no input from the local community.

Mr. Chairman, the last thing that people want to do when they travel to the woods of northern Michigan with their families is to learn about the obscure policies of the U.S. Forest Service, a Federal agency that treats the forests like their personal property instead of a public resource for everyone to enjoy.

□ 1700

Activities like hunting, snowmobiling, fishing, and hiking all depend on access to these forests. And it is important to note that the outdoor economy contributes over $5.5 billion and 194,000 jobs to Michigan, most of which are in my district.

My amendment is an opportunity to demonstrate to the Forest Service that their focus should be on making our forests more open and accessible to the American people. In practice, the amendment would reduce spending from the National Forest System vegetation and watershed program by $2 million and transfer those funds into the capital improvement and maintenance fund.

Now, you might ask yourself, What does that have to do with opening forest roads?

Well, I will tell you.

According to the Forest Service, when work is necessary to open a road for access, they use the capital improvement and maintenance fund. If the Forest Service is working to close a road to appease environmentalists who don't want anyone to visit the forest, they use the vegetation and watershed line item.

My amendment is simple. It gives more dollars to the Forest Service to keep roads open rather than closed. In addition, the CBO says that this change would save taxpayers $1 million for fiscal year 2016.

Mr. Chairman, today I am standing up on behalf of my constituents in my district who want to use their forests responsibly, who want to teach their kids and grandkids how to hunt, fish, and snowmobile. They want to enjoy nature. Furthermore, I am standing up today for the small businesses that employ families throughout the outdoor economy.

For example, I recently visited Extreme Power Sports in Gaylord, where they sell a variety of all-terrain vehicles, sleds, and safety gear. This small business sells ATVs and sleds to users all over the country who come to enjoy the trails and forests in our State and beyond.

In addition to businesses like Extreme Power Sports, the hotels and restaurants around northern Michigan are supported by those who come to visit our forests year-round.

Healthy, accessible forests are important for our way of life in northern Michigan and across the United States. All of our constituents deserve improved access to the forests, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman for raising these concerns about how the Forest Service is managing its roads and trails in Michigan. I will tell you that the same concerns exist around the country, in Idaho as well as other States, too.

Chairman CALVERT and the committee would be happy to work with you on this issue as the Interior bill moves through the process.

If there is no objection, we would be willing to accept the amendment.

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER) having assumed the chair, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of

the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 19) providing for recess of the Senate from June 25, 2015, until July 7, 2015, and adjournment of the House from June 25, 2015, until July 7, 2015.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 19

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, June 25, 2015, through Friday, July 3, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, June 25, 2015, through Friday, July 3, 2015, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving my right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I express my deep disappointment that the House will adjourn without having concluded its business.

Charter authority for the Export-Import Bank is set to expire this coming Tuesday should Congress fail to reauthorize it, which apparently we are going to fail to do. Shutting down the Bank puts at risk tens of thousands of jobs at American businesses whose exports are supported by the Bank's financing mechanisms.

Everybody knows that a bill to reauthorize the Bank has the votes to pass in this House. Everybody has known that the charter authority to back up loans by those who would buy goods from American workers expires at the end of this month. The Speaker of this House has said that jobs will be lost shortly after we fail to do this act, which we apparently are going to fail to do.

It is the will of the House and ought to be reflected by a vote of the House that this charter be renewed. And once we send it down the hall, such a bill will pass the Senate. Who said so? Senator ROY BLUNT, who used to be the majority whip and majority leader and minority whip in this House.

Before leaving to go home to our districts, we ought to reauthorize the Bank and provide certainty, Mr. Speaker, to businesses and their workers who depend on it to level the playing field against foreign competitors.

There are 85 such banks located in 60 countries with whom we compete. This will diminish, at least for a short time, our ability to compete in international markets. That will cost, as Speaker BOEHNER has said, jobs in the short term.

At the same time, I want to say that my friend from Mississippi, Representative THOMPSON, noticed a resolution that was referred to the Committee on House Administration today. Mr. Speaker, I believe that that resolution deserves to be considered in the committee without delay, and I hope it will be.

In the aftermath of the horrific and racially motivated murders of nine innocent people in Charleston last week, Americans across the country are taking a long overdue, critical look at the practice of allowing confederate symbols of hatred, slavery, and segregation to remain on prominent display in our public places. There is no public space more visible and more important than this United States Capitol Building.

Mr. THOMPSON's resolution would authorize the Speaker to remove Mississippi's flag—the only one to include the battle flag of the Confederacy—from the Capitol complex until such time as the State of Mississippi selects a new flag, free from a legacy of bigotry, exclusion, and racism.

I hope that Mississippians will move swiftly to design a new flag that more accurately reflects their pride in diversity, tolerance, and equality.

There is no reason why any Member or staffer, especially those whose ancestors suffered the horrors of slavery and segregation, should have to see that symbol in the temple to liberty that is our Capitol.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the House is adjourning without having completed its task for the June work period and without having shown the American people that Congress can do what it has been sent to do: support job growth, promote justice, and achieve results for those it serves.

Mr. Speaker, if I thought continuing my objection would lead to the swift enactment today or tomorrow of the Export-Import Bank, I would object. I do not believe that that would be the result; and, therefore, I will shortly withdraw my objection, but with a plea to the majority party that they bring to the floor very shortly after we return the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and that the Committee on House Administration give prompt consideration to the resolution of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

Without objection, the concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PATRIOT WEEK

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, with our 239th Independence Day around the corner, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing what makes our Nation the greatest country in the world by celebrating Patriot Week later this year.

In 2009, while I served in the Michigan Senate, we became the first legislative body to recognize Patriot Week. Since then, five States and countless private organizations have participated in celebrating our Founders and other great Americans who furthered the cause of liberty.

Patriot Week pays tribute to influential Americans, from George Washington to Martin Luther King, Jr.; it celebrates our values, from equal protection under the law to limited government; and it remembers our most important events, from the passage of the Constitution in 1787 to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, to many other events that collectively define our country.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution recognizes how each of these events has advanced the principles we hold in the highest regard and encourages our schools, our government agencies, States, and private employers to participate as well as take time to remember and learn about these events that are so important to our history.

Patriot Week begins by remembering those who died in the attacks of September 11, 2001, and those who sacrificed to save others. It ends on September 17 by celebrating Constitution Day and honoring those who risked everything to establish this Republic, for which we all have the privilege of serving.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my Patriot Week resolution.

□ 1715

ALOHA SPIRIT

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, a week ago, a man walked into a church in South Carolina and, in cold blood, gunned down nine worshippers. His actions were motivated by ignorance and hate. Throughout history and also in present day, unfortunately, there has been so much terror and suffering caused by ignorance and hate.

Mr. Speaker, in order to truly transcend racism, we must do more than remove slurs from our national vocabulary. In Hawaii, my home State, that consciousness is known as the aloha spirit—the consciousness of love and respect for all others, regardless of differences such as race, religion, gender, or nationality.

Understanding this truth is the path to peace. I would like to quote Mahatma Gandhi who said:

> There must be a recognition of the existence of the soul apart from the body, and of its permanent nature, and this recognition must amount to a living faith; and, in the last resort, nonviolence does not avail those who do not possess a living faith in the God of love.

RECOGNIZING CAROLINE ROBERTSON

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a truly inspirational individual from my district. Caroline Robertson is a 12-year-old girl from Potters Hill, North Carolina. We met last October at an event in Beulaville. She was born with Trisomy 18, a rare chromosomal disorder.

Despite her diagnosis, Caroline has maintained a positive outlook on life, choosing to live every minute of every day. Last year, Caroline was crowned a ''Dream Angel'' by the North Carolina Outstanding Little Miss Pageant. She is using her crown to help raise awareness for handicapped children throughout North Carolina.

Earlier this year, Caroline hosted a fundraiser called Bikers, Tea, and Tiaras to raise money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. There were over 35 crown titles in attendance, including Miss North Carolina 2014, Beth Stovall.

Caroline has had to overcome more adversity in 12 years than most of us will in a lifetime. She is a true inspiration to all around her, and I am honored to know her.

I would like to thank her for her work as a Dream Angel, and I know she will continue to accomplish great things in the years to come.

NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, it seems like every day there is a startling headline about a new concession to Iran in the nuclear negotiations. We are undeniably cascading further and further from where these talks started just 19 months ago.

With the latest deadline for the deal only 5 days away, I fear and expect that even more damaging concessions to the Iranians are on the way. It doesn't need to be this way. We don't have to accept it, and we must make sure that our voices continue to be heard by the administration on this historic issue.

We know that upon reaching a deal—any deal—there will be a full on PR blitz to try to sell this agreement. When that happens, we must stand strong and avoid the temptation to simply go along with the ''thrill of the deal.''

Instead of getting swept up in the momentum, we must not flinch from the simple, foundational idea that we have dedicated ourselves to all along, preventing Iran from having any path to a nuclear weapon. We can do it if we stick together.

SUPREME COURT ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOOLENAAR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it has been a big day over at the Supreme Court and a big day for the Constitution as the Constitution has taken a rather profound hit.

I understand the rules, Mr. Speaker. The rules are made clear. We will not impugn anybody's integrity and office up here, so I am not talking about an individual, I am talking about how completely dishonest, disingenuous, and how much affront to the Constitution and pure candor the majority's opinion is at the Supreme Court.

Nothing is more of an indictment against the majority opinion than at the end of the opinion itself. The majority indicted themselves with their own words.

At the end of the majority opinion, the majority says, ''In a democracy, the power to make the law rests with those chosen by the people. Our role is more confined''—and then quotes from Marbury v. Madison—''to say what the law is.''

The Court today goes on to say: ''That is easier in some cases than in others. But in every case we must respect the role of the legislature, and take care not to undo what it has done. A fair reading of legislation demands a fair understanding of the legislative plan.

''Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them. If at all possible, we must interpret the Act in a way that is consistent with the former, and avoids the latter. Section 36B can fairly be read consistent with what we see as Congress' plan, and that is the reading we adopt.''

The judgment of the United States Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit is affirmed.

That majority opinion is an indictment of the majority. The Constitution is worthless—absolutely worthless—when we have a majority of the Supreme Court that makes up law or in this case says: Do you know what? We know what Congress passed, we have read it, and we get it.

It makes exceedingly clear that unless a State sets up a State exchange for health care, then that State will be punished by not getting subsidies. That was debated, and that was included by the majority of the House and Senate without a single Republican vote, not a single Republican vote.

As the former chair of Ways and Means told some of our Members: We don't need your vote, and we don't want your input.

They did it as one party, jamming this down the throats of the Republican Party and the majority of the American people. That is why they lost the majority in November 2010.

They made it very clear. If you don't set up a State exchange, you don't get the subsidies in your State. God bless all the States that stood up and said: No, this is wrong. A majority of the American people didn't want this. You passed this without any input from nearly a majority of the constituents that are represented by Republicans. You didn't care that it was the most partisan a bill that has ever passed in Congress. You didn't care. You forced it. It is bad for Americans, and we are not going to help you by setting up a State exchange. Yes, we understand the law is very clear. Our State doesn't get the subsidies from the Federal Government—those are called bribes to be more literal—our State won't get the bribes that you throw back at us that came from our taxpayers if we don't set up the State exchanges. We understand that.

So what happens? The people that passed that bill and the President that helped pass the bill and forced it through and signed it realized they had made a major mistake, and rather than come and get Republicans to fix the disaster they had created, the President who had indicated he has a pen and he has a phone, decided: That allows me to make law, create new law, and change law completely that I have already signed into law because I got a pen and a phone, I can just change it upon my whim.

The President basically decided, through his administration, they decided that they would set up Federal exchanges. Even though the law was

very unequivocal, those States get no subsidies. They decided we better start giving them subsidies. If I sound sensitive about this, Mr. Speaker, it is because I am.

This disaster of a healthcare bill that costs so many of my constituents the health insurance they liked because they were lied to every time they were told by anybody if you like your policy you can keep it, that was a lie, and when people were told, Nobody that is in this country illegally will ever get insurance under ObamaCare, that was a lie.

When they were told, If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor, no matter who told it to them, that was a lie. They were all lies.

We found out later they talked about it within the White House and decided: Well, the best thing to do is not to tell everybody that they stand a good chance of losing their own health insurance and losing their doctor and losing their hospital and losing their particular policy that may keep them alive. Let's don't tell them that. Let's just say, if you like your doctor, if you like your health care, you can keep it.

The bill passed. It was a bad bill, and now, we have a Supreme Court that has entered into the fiction and the fraud that this opinion can somehow act like the law was equivocal when it was very unequivocal.

God bless Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas at the—well, the minority opinion, as it says here, I have a copy of the whole opinion, including the dissent, Justice Scalia with Justice Thomas and Justice Alito join, dissenting.

That dissent starts by saying the Court holds that when the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act says ''exchanges established by the State,'' it means ''exchanges established by the State or the Federal Government.''

That is, of course, quite absurd, and the Court's 21 pages of explanation make it no less so.

The dissenting opinion also states in answer to the question of whether someone who buys insurance on an exchange established by the Secretary gets the tax credit, he says: ''You would think the answer would be obviously.''

Obviously, there would hardly be a need for the Supreme Court to hear a case about it. In order to receive any money under section 36B, an individual must enroll in an insurance plan through ''an exchange established by the State.'' The Secretary of Health and Human Services is not a State.

Further down, he says: ''Words no longer have meaning if an exchange that is not established by a State is 'established by the State.' ''

Further down he quotes: ''The plain, obvious, and rational meaning of a statute is always to be preferred to any curious, narrow, hidden sense that nothing but the exigency of a hard case and the ingenuity and study of an acute and powerful intellect would discover.''

That quote is from Lynch v. Alworth-Stephens Company.

□ 1730

Under all the usual rules of interpretation, in short, the government should lose this case, but normal rules of interpretation seem always to yield to overriding principle of the present Court: the Affordable Care Act must be saved.

Mr. Speaker, the trouble this Nation is in when we have a President who makes law at the sound of his voice, at the stroke of his pen, without going through Congress, and then that is aggravated exponentially by a Supreme Court that enters into the charade.

As the Court said on page 5 of its dissent, adopting the Court's interpretations means nullifying the term ''by the State,'' not just once, but again and again throughout the act.

It goes on to point out that the term ''by the State'' is mentioned seven times throughout the bill and that the majority on the Court, they could care less about the Constitution, they could care less about their oath. They feel their job is to uphold anything that this President and the former Democratic majority sent to them, regardless of how badly it requires them to ax the Constitution.

Page 12 of the dissent says: ''For its next defense of the indefensible, the Court''—talking about the majority—''turns to the Affordable Care Act's design and purposes.''

Well, obviously, they need to turn to something because the law was very clear. To get the subsidies, a State had to set up an exchange.

Page 13 of the dissent says: ''Having gone wrong in consulting statutory purpose at all, the Court goes wrong again in analyzing it.''

Page 15 of the dissent says: ''Compounding its errors, the Court forgets that it is no more appropriate to consider one of a statute's purposes in isolation than it is to consider one of its words that way.''

Page 16 of the dissent says: ''Worst of all, for the repute of today's decision, the Court's reasoning is largely self-defeating.''

It goes on to explain why.

Page 18 of the dissent says: ''The Court's decision reflects the philosophy that judges should endure whatever interpretive distortions it takes in order to correct a supposed flaw in the statutory machinery. That philosophy ignores the American people's decision to give Congress 'all legislative powers' enumerated in the Constitution, citing article I, section 1. They made Congress, not this Court, responsible for both making laws and mending them.

''This Court holds only the judicial power, the power to pronounce the law as Congress has enacted it. We lack the prerogative to repair laws that do not work out in practice, just as the people lack the ability to throw us out of office if they dislike the solutions we concoct. We must always remember, therefore, that our task is to apply the text, not to improve upon it.''

The dissent actually cites precedent for that very language.

Trying to make its judge-empowering approach seem respectful of Congressional authority, the Court asserts that its decision merely ensures that the Affordable Care Act operates the way Congress meant it to operate.

First of all, what makes the Court so sure that Congress meant tax credits to be available everywhere? Those are great questions that the dissent asks, even though they are rhetorical.

The Supreme Court struck a blow for tyranny today. I predicted this for quite some time because when you have someone who is Solicitor General under the Obama administration and who has the job of advising—well, first of all, defending legislation and defending acts that the administration wanted defended in court, but of course, part of that means, as any good lawyer will tell you, that attorney that defends you in court must give you advice about that which he or she may have to defend in court.

Either we had a Solicitor General go before the Senate and lie that there had never been any discussions about the Affordable Care Act, about ObamaCare, in the presence of the Solicitor General, or the Solicitor General was completely incompetent.

Everybody that voted for that Solicitor General should have their heads examined because either a lie or incompetence should have been enough to keep a former Solicitor General from going on to the Supreme Court of the land. It didn't happen. That person went on the Court.

It also is reprehensible for judges, Justices, on the Supreme Court to flaunt the law, disobey perhaps one of the most critical laws assigned to the court, in order to participate in an opinion in which they want to change the law.

Apparently, since the Supreme Court didn't come down with a decision regarding same-sex marriage today, that should be coming out next week. So far, there has been no notice that the two Justices that perform same-sex weddings would be disqualifying themselves as 28 U.S.C. section 455 says.

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I have a chart.

28 U.S.C. section 455 says very clearly in A part—there is an A part that would disqualify judges, or Justices, and then there is a B part that may as well, but A is a certainty.

''Any justice, judge, or magistrate judge of the United States shall disqualify himself''—that can be male or female—''in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned.''

That is the law. When we have two Supreme Court Justices that, so far, have given no indications of anything but that they are going to intentionally knowingly violate that law and participate in a majority opinion,

then we have to wonder how much longer this little experiment in a democratic republic will last. I would submit not much longer.

The laws of Moses, the Bible, helped found this country. When all seemed lost and nothing appeared to be agreeable to a majority in the constitutional convention, they took a recess to go worship God at the Reformed Calvinist church in Philadelphia.

We still have part of what the preacher prayed, what he spoke. He seemed to make a real difference because they came back. As Alexander Hamilton noted—someone not noted for being spiritual—he noted that, clearly, the finger of God was involved in bringing together people that could not agree in such an incredible document.

We turn our back once again today, as a majority of the Supreme Court did, on the clear meaning, clear statement of the law. So far, I hope and pray they will have a change of heart and not disobey the law in order to try to change law overriding State constitutions, as it may.

I hope and pray they will have a change of heart and they will disqualify themselves, anyone on the Supreme Court, who clearly, not just might reasonably be questioned, but they clearly were biased and partial when it comes to same-sex marriage. Hopefully, they will disqualify themselves, and we will get an opinion by a more objective Court; but if they don't, we are looking at a constitutional crisis of incredible proportions.

Does a country have to follow a law created out of whole cloth by a majority of unelected judges who violate the law itself in order to create new law? I think the answer is: No, you don't have to follow that kind of law.

There is no question that the persecution of Christians who practice their religion, as set out in the Bible, will be forced to subject themselves to persecution, as this administration already has shown.

It doesn't matter if you are a nun and you have devoted your entire life to helping the poor and the downtrodden, your little sister of the poor; it doesn't matter to this administration.

They are going to drag you through the muck, through the devastation of having to go to court, all because you happen to believe what the Founders believed, the huge majority since, heck, over a third of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were actually ordained Christian ministers, and then the great work by churches to force the Constitution to mean what it said so that slavery was eliminated, the great work of an ordained Christian minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., in pushing the issue of civil rights for one and all, so that one day, hopefully, we can have people judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

The things Martin Luther King, Jr., believed in, that he was ordained and preached, the things those abolitionist churches believed with all their hearts, if the Supreme Court does what the indications are they will likely do, they would be persecuted for their beliefs, our very Founders would be persecuted for their beliefs. This isn't about slavery. We did away with that. It is tragic.

No one, no matter what their sexual preference is, should be discriminated against; but when it comes to marriage, it is the building block, the foundational building block established by nature itself, by nature's God, by the law of Moses, the Moses imprint that exists above my head here in this Chamber, that exists on the southern wall of the chamber of the Supreme Court, and is the law as Jesus laid it out regarding marriage when he quoted Moses.

We are coming into some difficult days, and I am afraid this decision today that mocks the law, both case law and the written law, we are coming into some difficult days.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), my friend.

□ 1745

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the discussion going on about today's Supreme Court decision, and I, too, am very troubled by what I read today. To me, there are a couple of big issues at play here.

One is accountability and how this Congress 5 years ago rammed through legislation without reading it. We all remember the famous line: ''Pass it to find out what is in it.'' The American people continue to find out what is in it. I heard the President talking today about this law's being woven into the fabric of the country. What is being woven into the fabric of the country are higher premiums, higher deductibles, less choice, more Washington, more bureaucrats, more forcing people to violate their consciences. That is not the way we need to be going.

Now we see how the Supreme Court for the second time has allowed, really, a lack of accountability. When we saw in the NFIB case how they said, ''Oh, it is not a penalty; it is a tax,'' there were people in this Chamber who argued for the Affordable Care Act in saying there are no taxes here. Then the Supreme Court absolved them of that responsibility by saying, ''Oh, it is a tax. We will keep it in place.'' Here today is clear language that subsidies would go to only those exchanges that were established by the State.

There is a serious problem here, and it is not just with Congress' not being held accountable for the laws it passes; there is a separation of powers issue here as we see another branch of the government invade the lawmaking responsibility that this Congress has. Again, I want to talk about Justice Scalia's dissent here.

''The Court's decision reflects the philosophy that judges should endure whatever interpretive distortions it takes in order to correct a supposed flaw in the statutory machinery. That philosophy ignores the American people's decision to give Congress 'all legislative powers' enumerated in the Constitution.''

That is what the Constitution says.

''They made Congress, not this Court, responsible for both making laws and mending them. This Court holds only the judicial power—the power to pronounce the law as Congress has enacted it. We lack the prerogative to repair laws that do not work out in practice, just as the people lack the ability to throw us out of office''—that is, the Supreme Court—''if they dislike the solutions we concoct.''

This is the Congress' responsibility to amend the laws, not the Supreme Court's. The dissent continues:

''Rather than rewriting the law under the pretense of interpreting it, the Court should have left it to Congress to decide what to do about the Act's limitation of tax credits to State exchanges . . . The Court's insistence on making a choice that should be made by Congress both aggrandizes judicial power and encourages congressional lassitude.''

Mr. Speaker, it is the Congress' job to make law. It is the Court's job to interpret the law, not to rewrite the law as it did in the NFIB case and not to rewrite the law as it did today.

I thank the gentleman for raising these very serious issues as to what happened with the Court today.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate the gentleman's observations.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I knew when I stood with Mr. ROTHFUS in the Senate Chamber in recent years past, in support of a filibuster, that I would enjoy standing with him on other occasions, and I appreciate so much his observations.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to finish with this observation from John Adams, 1776 July. He is writing to Abigail. In the last paragraph, he writes:

''You will think me transported with enthusiasm''—in talking about the Declaration of Independence—''but I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost to maintain this Declaration and support and defend these States. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means, that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction even though we may regret it, which I trust in God we shall not.''

For this to stand as a country, as a democratic Republic as created, it takes courage and it takes integrity, and we didn't get that from the Supreme Court today.

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

AN AGREEMENT WITH IRAN MUST BAR ITS PATH TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the deadline is bearing down on us for the President's nuclear agreement with Iran. So, at this moment, Congress must send the administration a strong message: In order to be acceptable, any agreement must bar every Iranian path to nuclear weapons.

This means the deal must last for decades. There has been a lot of reporting of stopgap deals that would try to restrict Iran in the short term while giving it a blank check after just some 10 years. Such an agreement would be absurd, Mr. Speaker. Given Iran's longstanding nefarious quest for nuclear weapons and its government's genocidal anti-Semitism, I and the vast majority of my colleagues in Congress would never accept such a bad deal.

Iran will also have to dismantle its current nuclear infrastructure and turn over nearly all of its stockpile of uranium. Iran prefers to merely ''disconnect'' its 19,000 centrifuges. That is totally unacceptable —coming from the Iranian Government with its murderous threats to annihilate the State of Israel and its obsessive hatred of Jews worldwide. It is estimated that centrifuges could be reconnected in a matter of mere months—and so they must be dismantled, and the core should be removed from the Arak heavy water reactor.

It also means there can be no lifting or a reduction of sanctions until the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, certifies that Iran has complied with its commitments under the agreement; and IAEA inspectors must be granted access to any and all suspected sites. This access must be unimpeded, Mr. Speaker, meaning that the IAEA must be able to conduct inspections at military sites as well. The rule must be full access—anytime, anywhere.

Iran must also fully account for its past efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Unless it does so, there is no way to establish a baseline from which to measure its current capacities and potential future violations and responsibly gauge a ''breakout time.''

Mr. Speaker, these are minimum criteria. In order to get congressional approval, any deal the President presents to Congress will have to have met them. The Nuclear Agreement Review Act gives Congress the authority to review any agreement with Iran and to pass a joint resolution barring any statutory sanctions relief. The administration and the Iranian Government need to know that the vast majority of my colleagues will be as firm as I am in insisting on them. I am certainly prepared to vote against any agreement that does not meet these criteria.

Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration has shown itself far too weak in dealing with Iran. For example, last week, Secretary Kerry said that the United States is ''not fixated'' on Iran's explaining its past behavior—a significant backtracking on his earlier insistence on this crucial point.

In fact, throughout June, we have been reading disturbing reports of administration weakness in the negotiations on a whole range of issues—from demanding access to potential nuclear sites to signaling a willingness to repeal non-nuclear-related sanctions. Just yesterday, five of the President's top former Iran advisers wrote an open letter, warning that the agreement ''may fall short of meeting the administration's own standard of a 'good' agreement.'' The letter outlined concerns about concessions at the same time that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appeared to back away from other preliminary understandings.

There are many other signs of the administration's weakness, Mr. Speaker, in its dealings with Iran. Fundamentally, it refuses to speak truths that are obvious to everyone: that the Iranian Government has made itself the enemy of the United States and the genocidal enemy of the State of Israel, and that our goal must always be to prevent it from acquiring or manufacturing nuclear weapons now and long into the future. A nuclear Iran would be a grave threat to our country and an existential threat to Israel, our closest ally. That is intolerable. The administration seems to no longer recall that Iran is the leading sponsor of Hezbollah and Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, the case of Pastor Saeed Abedini is another sad sign of administration weakness toward Iran. Saeed Abedini is an American citizen. He was in Iran in 2012, visiting family and building an orphanage, when he was taken prisoner. As a matter of fact, he had been given permission by the Iranians to do just that. Twelve years before, he had converted to Christianity and, later, was involved in the home church movement in Iran. Knowing about his conversion and earlier engagement in home churches, Iranian authorities approved his 2012 trip, approved his orphanage building, and then imprisoned him. He has been in prison ever since then and has suffered immensely from beatings that have caused internal bleeding, death threats, solitary confinement, and more. His wife, Naghmeh, who is also an American and has been a heroic champion for her husband and their two children, has also suffered. I have chaired two hearings when we have heard from Naghmeh, who told the compelling story of her husband, of her love for her husband, of the gross injustice that he has been forced to suffer. It is time the administration made this a priority and a very, very important matter in the nuclear negotiations.

The administration is not doing enough to secure his release. There is no doubt about it. The administration does little more than raise his case and those of other American prisoners on the sidelines of the nuclear negotiations because it sees the prisoners as sideline issues. This is an American citizen, unjustly imprisoned now for over 1,000 days—and tortured—in Iran, and the administration has a few marginal conversations with Iranian officials and considers that good enough. It is deeply disturbing. It ought to be a central priority.

Mr. Speaker, it is also a very alarming sign of what we might expect the administration to present us with when we return to session in early July. That is why Congress' responsibility is to be prepared to maintain a much firmer line on the outcome of these negotiations—when we review the agreement—than the administration seems to be taking.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a couple of excerpts from today—they were released today—from the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014, which reads in pertinent part:

''The most significant human rights problems were severe restrictions on civil liberties, including the freedoms of assembly, speech, religion, and press; limitations on the citizens' ability to change the government peacefully through free and fair elections; and disregard for the physical integrity of persons whom authorities arbitrarily and unlawfully detained, tortured, or killed.

''Other reported human rights problems included: disappearances; cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including judicially sanctioned amputation and flogging; politically motivated violence and repression; harsh and life-threatening conditions in detention and prison facilities, with instances of deaths in custody; arbitrary arrest and lengthy pretrial detention, sometimes incommunicado; continued impunity of the security forces; denial of fair public trial, sometimes resulting in executions without due process; the lack of an independent judiciary; political prisoners and detainees; ineffective implementation of civil judicial procedures and remedies; arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, and correspondence; severe restrictions on freedoms of speech, including via the Internet, and press; harassment and arrest of journalists; censorship and media content restrictions; severe restrictions on academic freedom; severe restrictions on the freedoms of assembly and association.''

□ 1800

That is just a few of the catalog of horrors being imposed upon Iranians and people like our own American citizens being held in custody, like Pastor Saeed Abedini.

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

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 893. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 230. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a medical procedure.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION RELATED TO TRADE LEGISLATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record revisions to the budget allocations and aggregates of the Fiscal Year 2016 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to section 4506 of such concurrent resolution. These revisions are designated for Senate Amendment 2065 to H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015. Corresponding tables are attached.

This revision represents an adjustment for purposes of budgetary enforcement. These revised allocations and aggregates are to be considered as the aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolution, pursuant to S. Con. Res. 11, as adjusted. Pursuant to section 3403 of such concurrent resolution, this revision to the allocations and aggregates shall apply only while Senate Amendment 2065 to H.R. 1295 is under consideration or upon its enactment.

Sincerely,

TOM PRICE, M.D.,
Committee on the Budget.

TABLE 1—REVISION TO ON-BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AGGREGATES

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal Year	
	2016	2016–2025
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,039,215	[1]
Outlays	3,091,442	[1]
Revenues	2,676,733	32,237,371
Adjustment for the Senate amendment to HR 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015:		
Budget Authority	445	[1]
Outlays	175	[1]
Revenues	−766	−4,272
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,039,660	[1]
Outlays	3,091,617	[1]
Revenues	2,675,967	32,233,099

[1] Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 2017–2025 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

TABLE 2—REVISION TO COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS—AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

House Committee on Ways and Means	2016		2016–2025 Total	
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Current Allocation	962,805	962,080	13,224,077	13,222,960
Adjustment for the Senate amendment to HR 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015	445	175	−5,382	−5,382
Revised Allocation	963,250	962,255	13,218,695	13,217,578

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 533. An act to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 19, 114th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 19, 114th Congress, the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 7, 2015, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1942. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Addition of Intussusception as Injury for Rotavirus Vaccines to the Vaccine Injury Table (RIN: 0906-AB00) received June 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1943. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Permits for Construction and Major Modification of Major Stationary Sources for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0028; FRL-9929-34-Region 3] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1944. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Alternative Monitoring Plan for Milton R. Young Station [EPA-R08-OAR-2015-0026; FRL-9928-81-Region 8] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1945. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Revision to Allegheny County Regulations for Establishing Permit Fees [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0886; FRL-9929-40-Region 3] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1946. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-088 1; A-1-FRL-9925-88-Region 1] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1947. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of New Mexico; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone and 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter Air Pollution Affecting Visibility [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0270; FRL-9929-38-Region 6] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1948. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Adoption of Control Technique Guidelines for Offset Lithographic Printing and Letterpress Printing; Flexible Package Printing; and Adhesives, Sealants, Primers, and Solvents [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0166; FRL-9929-39-Region 3] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1949. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Ferroalloys Production [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0895; FRL-9928-66-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ11) received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1950. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Thiram; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0249; FRL-9928-82] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1951. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Services Surveys: BE-I80, Benchmark Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons [Docket No.: 150108021-5409-01] (RIN: 0691-AA84) received June 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1952. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations [Docket No.: 150122067-5453-02] (RIN: 0648-BE83) received June 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1953. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0227; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-211-AD; Amendment 39-18165; AD 2015-11-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1954. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0754; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-136-AD; Amendment 39-18156; AD 2015-10-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1955. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Pilot Pairing Requirement [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2129; Amdt. Nos.: 61-134 and 121-372] (RIN: 2120-AK68) received June 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1956. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0575; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-086-AD; Amendment 39-18181; AD 2015-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1957. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. (Agusta) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2119; Directorate Identifier 2015-SW-005-AD; Amendment 39-18179; AD 2015-05-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1958. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tucumcari, NM [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0902; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-8] received June 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1959. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Lease and Interchange of Vehicles; Motor Carriers of Passengers [Docket No.: FMCSA-2012-0103] (RIN: 2126-AB44) received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1960. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously held by Schweizer Aircraft Corporation) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-1020; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-078-AD; Amendment 39-18172; AD 2015-11-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1961. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Model Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0493; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-019-AD; Amendment 39-18173; AD 2015-11-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1962. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0646; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-053-AD; Amendment 39-18174; AD 2015-12-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1963. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exclusion of Tethered Launches From Licensing Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0045; Amdt. Nos.: 400-5 and 401-8] (RIN: 2120-AJ90) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1964. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Electronic Applications for Licenses, Permits, and Safety Approvals [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1745; Amdt. Nos.: 413-11 and 414-3] (RIN: 2120-AK58) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1965. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31019; Amdt. No.: 3645] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1966. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31020; Amdt. No.: 3646] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1967. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31017; Amdt. No.: 3643] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1968. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31018; Amdt. No.: 3644] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1969. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31015; Amdt. No.: 3641] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1970. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31016; Amdt. No.: 3642] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1971. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31021; Amdt. No.: 520] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1972. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways; Northeastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1650; Airspace Docket

No.: 14-AEA-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1973. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Forrest City, AR [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0879; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-7] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1974. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Clark, SD [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0724; Airspace Docket No.: 14-AGL-12] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1975. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Eufaula, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0970; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASO-18] received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1976. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Restricted Areas R-4501A, R-4501B, R-4501C, R-4501D, R-4501F, and R-4501H; Fort Leonard Wood, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0640; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ACE-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1977. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Delegations of Authority: Office of Regulation Policy and Management (ORPM) (RIN: 2900-AP47) received June 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1978. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (02 REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Presumption of Herbicide Exposure and Presumption of Disability During Service for Reservists Presumed Exposed to Herbicide (RIN: 2900-AP43) received June 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1979. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Arms, Ammunition and Defense Articles--Removal of Certain Defense Articles Currently on the U.S. Munitions Import List That No Longer Warrant Import Control Under the Arms Export Control Act (2011R-25P) [Docket No.: ATF-25F; AG Order No.: 35-31-2015] (RIN: 1140-AA45) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1980. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Ohio PM2.5 NSR [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0385; FRL-9928-57-Region 5] received June 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 313. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–180). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1069. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–181). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1531. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–182). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 690. A bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule (Rept. 114–183). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 712. A bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–184). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CONAWAY: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 2647. A bill to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 114–185, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2647. A bill to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 114–185, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 208. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy; with amendments (Rept. 114–186). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 2499. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–187). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 2670. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–188). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 1023. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control (Rept. 114–189). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2886. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an Automated and Connected Vehicle Research Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. POLIS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HONDA, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico):

H.R. 2887. A bill to provide employees with 2 hours of paid leave in order to vote in Federal elections; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BARTON (for himself, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2888. A bill to establish a program for the licensing of Internet poker by States and federally recognized Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 2889. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of personal service income earned in pass-thru entities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 2890. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain rules applicable to qualified small issue manufacturing bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 2891. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to inflation adjust the

$5,000 limitation with respect to dependent care assistance programs and flexible spending arrangements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 2892. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prescribe safety standards for autocycles and related equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 2893. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require that decorative objects depicting the official seal of the Department of Defense, the military departments, the Armed Forces, and the Defense Agencies be manufactured in the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2894. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 2895. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish payment parity under the Medicare program for ambulatory cancer care services furnished in the hospital outpatient department and the physician office setting; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. TIPTON (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 2896. A bill to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to take risk profiles and business models of institutions into account when taking regulatory actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 2897. A bill to require the submission of a report to the Congress on parasitic disease among poor Americans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NUNES, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. STEWART, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. COOK, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HARDY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 2898. A bill to provide drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. MCCAUL:

H.R. 2899. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Office for Countering Violent Extremism; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 2900. A bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 2901. A bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 2902. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. WOMACK, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 2903. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages; 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 Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 2904. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the use of a towaway trailer transportation combination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H.R. 2905. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide that only health plans made available by the Federal Government to Supreme Court Justices and staff are Exchange health plans; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 2906. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Texas Western College National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball championship; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 2907. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HANNA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 2908. A bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SALMON, and Ms. MCSALLY):

H.R. 2909. A bill to establish an interagency working group to study the use of unmanned aircraft systems for wildland firefighting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Natural Resources, 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. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 2910. A bill to ensure the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Mexican wolf nonessential experimental population 10(j) rule has no force or effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2911. A bill to provide an exception from certain group health plan requirements to allow small businesses to use pre-tax dollars to assist employees in the purchase of policies in the individual health insurance market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, 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. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BLUM, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FLORES, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 2912. A bill to establish a commission to examine the United States monetary policy, evaluate alternative monetary regimes, and recommend a course for monetary policy going forward; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BLUM, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FLORES, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 2913. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to improve the functioning and transparency of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Open Market Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 2914. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require congressional approval before the appropriation of funds for Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility leases; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 2915. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2916. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to restrict the ability of a person whose Federal license to import, manufacture, or deal in firearms has been revoked, whose application to renew such a license has been denied, or who has received a license revocation or renewal denial notice, to transfer business inventory firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIMES, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. FARR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. MENG, Ms. ESTY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2917. A bill to incentivize State reporting systems that allow mental health professionals to submit information on certain individuals deemed dangerous for purposes of prohibiting firearm possession by such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. CURBELO of Florida (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 2918. A bill to ensure fairness in premium rates for coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program for residences and business properties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 2919. A bill to authorize 2 additional district judgeships for the district of Colorado; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 2920. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 2921. A bill to intensify stem cell research showing evidence of substantial clinical benefit to patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. KLINE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. PITTENGER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2922. A bill to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 2923. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to award grants to expand programs in maritime and energy workforce technical training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2924. A bill to withdraw certain Federal lands and interests located in Pima and Santa Cruz counties, Arizona, from the mining and mineral leasing laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2925. A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2926. A bill to designate certain public lands in the Sonoran Desert of the State of Arizona as national conservation areas and wilderness areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 2927. A bill to authorize Hispanic-serving institutions receiving grants under part A of title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to use such grant amounts to assist students in entering medical schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 2928. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the ''Harold George Bennett Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 2929. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to minimize infringement on the exercise and enjoyment of property rights in issuing hydropower licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HIMES, Ms. ESTY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KING of New York, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 2930. A bill to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. KILMER (for himself, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. BARLETTA):

H.R. 2931. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the number of members of the Federal Election Commission from 6 to 5, to revise the method of selection and terms of service of members of the Commission, to distribute the powers of the Commission between the Chair and the remaining members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 2932. A bill to provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish grant programs to improve the health and positive youth development impacts of youth sports participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 2933. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a local rail facilities and safety program to award grants for freight capacity projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MENG, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. NOLAN):

H.R. 2934. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans for five years; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2935. A bill to provide for a five-year extension of the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of medical disability examinations by contract physicians; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2936. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to treat infant formula as adulterated if its use-by-date has passed; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. COLE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. HARDY, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 2937. A bill to strengthen support for the Cuban people and prohibit financial

transactions with the Cuban military, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. NOLAN):

H.R. 2938. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a loan repayment program for certain architects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2939. A bill to repeal certain appropriations riders that limit the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to administer the Federal firearms laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DOLD, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 2940. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and make permanent the above-the-line deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 2941. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the receipt of bonuses by Department of Veterans Affairs employees who violate Federal civil laws or regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BRAT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. WALKER):

H.R. 2942. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to detain any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and is arrested for certain criminal offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 2943. A bill to prohibit the Department of Agriculture from obligating or expending any funds for grants awarded for research on the prevention of rose rosette disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BARTON, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. YOHO, Ms. BASS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 2944. A bill to improve public safety, accountability, transparency, and respect for federalism in Federal criminal law by applying the findings of the bipartisan Over-Criminalization Task Force and evidence-based reforms already made by some States, and reinvesting the resulting savings from doing so in additional evidence-based criminal justice strategies that are proven to reduce recidivism and crime, and the burden of the criminal justice system on the taxpayer; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. WELCH:

H.R. 2945. A bill to require the administering authority to determine an individual countervailable subsidy rate upon request if four or fewer exporters and producers are involved in the investigation or review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 2946. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the corporate income tax rate to 20 percent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan (for himself and Mr. TROTT):

H. Con. Res. 58. Concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 11 to September 17 as ''Patriot Week''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Con. Res. 59. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of June 21 as National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day to promote children's health and gun safety; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H. Res. 340. A resolution returning to the Senate H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H. Res. 341. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. VEASEY):

H. Res. 342. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the enhancement of unity in America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FARR, and Mr. VALADAO):

H. Res. 343. A resolution expressing concern regarding persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of China, including from large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BASS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H. Res. 344. A resolution urging the discontinued use of the Confederate battle flag, which represents pain, humiliation, torture, and racial oppression, in remembrance of the Emanuel 9; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JONES, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H. Res. 345. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of June 2015 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month'' and June 27, 2015, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' 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.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COOK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida):

H. Res. 346. A resolution condemning the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

70. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution No. 497, urging the Congress to pass legislation in support of universal child care services for working families and to provide sufficient and sustainable funding for a permanent child care program similar to the federally administered program created and implemented under the Lanham Act of 1940; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 2887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution relating to the power of Congress 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)

By Mr. BARTON:

H.R. 2888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

Mr. LEVIN:
H.R. 2889.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. HULTGREN:
H.R. 2890.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, as this legislation regulates commerce between the states.
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its enumerated powers, such as Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.
By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 2891.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 2892.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''
By Mr. MACARTHUR:
H.R. 2893.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, of the Constitution
By Ms. ESTY:
H.R. 2894.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution.
By Mr. POMPEO:
H.R. 2895.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:
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 Mr. TIPTON:
H.R. 2896.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: ''The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.''
By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H.R. 2897.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, §8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause
By Mr. VALADAO:
H.R. 2898.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of section 8 and clause 7 of section 9 of article I, of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. MCCAUL:
H.R. 2899.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—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. REICHERT:
H.R. 2900.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Artcile IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respoecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).
By Mr. ROSS:
H.R. 2901.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 3
By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:
H.R. 2902.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One, section 8, clause 18:
Congress shall have Power—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 of Officer thereof
By Mr. PAULSEN:
H.R. 2903.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:
H.R. 2904.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8, clause three; to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.
By Mr. BABIN:
H.R. 2905.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. O'ROURKE:
H.R. 2906.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
The Congress shall have Power***To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution the foregoing Powers, and all the Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 2907.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII.
By Mr. CLAY:
H.R. 2908.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. SINEMA:
H.R. 2909.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
Article IV, Section 3
By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 2910.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause) which give Congress the power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. In Kleppe v. New Mexico, 426 U.S.592 (1976), the Congress was found to have sufficient power to regulate the activity of animals on public lands; and
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause) which gives Congres the power to regulate commerce among the states. If the matter in question is not purely a local matter (intra-state) or if it has an impact on interstate commerce, it falls within the Congressional power to regulate interstate commerce. National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius, 567 U.S.__(2012).
By Mr. BOUSTANY:
H.R. 2911.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—Business/Labor Regulation—The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. BRADY of Texas:
H.R. 2912.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that ''Congress shall have the power to . . . coin money, regulate the value thereof . . .''.
By Mr. BRADY of Texas:
H.R. 2913.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that ''Congress shall have the power to . . . coin money, regulate the value thereof . . .''.
By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 2914.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 2915.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 2916.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 2917.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:
H.R. 2918.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1, Section 8, Article 1
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 Ms. DEGETTE:
H.R. 2919.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 9, which states ''The Congress shall have Power . . . To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court.''
Article III, Section 1 states that ''The judicial Power of the United States, shall be

vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.''

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 2920.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 2921.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 2922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4: To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 2923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2924.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Cont. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory of other Property belonging to the United States;

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2925.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Cont. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory of other Property belonging to the United States;

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2926.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Cont. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory of other Property belonging to the United States;

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 2927.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 2928.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7: ''The Congress shall have power . . . to establish post offices and post roads''

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 2929.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2930.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article 1, Sec. 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 2931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution granting Congress the authority to make laws governing the time, place, and manner of holding Federal elections

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 2933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

As described in Article 1, Section 1 ''all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.''

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 2934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 2937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 2938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 2939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 2940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment XVI to the Constitution of the United States: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 2941.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 2942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4—''To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States''

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 2943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—''No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 2944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 2945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power 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. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 2946.

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 Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KEATING, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. KIND, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FARR, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HOYER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 136: Mr. BECERRA, Ms. LEE, and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 167: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 228: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 282: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 288: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 292: Mr. JEFFRIES and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 358: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 379: Mr. DOLD and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 425: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 448: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 465: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 467: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 556: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 563: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 581: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 592: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PALMER, Mr. FARR, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 612: Mr. YODER, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 616: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 662: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. COOK.
H.R. 692: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 699: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 711: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 721: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. TROTT, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 727: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 765: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 767: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 829: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 842: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 845: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 855: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 868: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 918: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 921: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 963: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 973: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 985: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 986: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 1002: Mr. BOST, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 1057: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 1062: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 1086: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1101: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1120: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 1142: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 1148: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1151: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 1174: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 1178: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 1197: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1209: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1221: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1270: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 1283: Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 1301: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 1305: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1308: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1309: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1321: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 1344: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1384: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1393: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1422: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1427: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1434: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1453: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 1462: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1475: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1476: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 1479: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 1516: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1528: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1559: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1571: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1572: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1599: Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 1608: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1610: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. LAUDERMILK.
H.R. 1624: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. LIPINSKI, and MISS RICE of New York.
H.R. 1635: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1655: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1671: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 1684: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1703: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1726: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1728: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1737: Ms. ESTY, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1739: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1748: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1768: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 1769: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1784: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1786: Mr. GABBARD.
H.R. 1788: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 1814: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H.R. 1849: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1854: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1861: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1901: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 1937: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1942: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1945: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 1977: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1978: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1994: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 2023: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 2030: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2050: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. JONES, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2058: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 2061: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. KIND, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2096: Mr. BLUM.
H.R. 2113: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2121: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2124: Mr. REED, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. NOLAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 2128: Mrs NOEM.
H.R. 2144: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 2156: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2211: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 2229: Ms. MOORE and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2260: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2277: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2278: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 2290: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 2291: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 2293: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2302: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2303: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2309: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2311: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2315: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 2342: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2358: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 2382: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2400: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HARDY, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 2404: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2412: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2417: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 2466: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 2477: Mr. OLSON and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 2493: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2494: Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. MENG, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2500: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2510: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. KNIGHT, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 2518: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 2521: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2522: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2530: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2553: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2557: Mr. OLSON and Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 2560: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2567: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. YODER, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2586: Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 2587: Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 2602: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2627: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2631: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 2646: Mr. RUSH, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2647: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 2650: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 2653: Mr. RATCLIFFE and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2658: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2660: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 2662: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2663: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2689: Mr. PETERS and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 2691: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2692: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2698: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 2710: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2713: Mr. CLAY and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2721: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 2726: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 2734: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2742: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2744: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2752: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 2758: Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 2768: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2775: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 2788: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 2789: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2800: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.
H.R. 2802: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 2805: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 2808: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2810: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2812: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 2818: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 2820: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2824: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2835: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 2844: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2846: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2854: Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 2866: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2867: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HIMES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. BASS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HOYER, Ms. HAHN, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 2875: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.J. Res. 48: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.J. Res. 55: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. AMASH, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.J. Res. 58: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. CARNEY.

H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H. Con. Res. 38: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. NEAL.

H. Res. 34: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 140: Mr. RUSH and Mr. TAKAI.

H. Res. 209: Mr. ZELDIN.

H. Res. 294: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 310: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 318: Mr. MARINO, Mr. YODER, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H. Res. 320: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H. Res. 327: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H. Res. 329: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. CLAWSON OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 20: Page 14, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert ''increased by $1,000,000''.

Page 14, line 10, after the second dollar amount, insert ''increased by $1,000,000''.

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''reduced by $1,250,000''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. CLAWSON OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 21: Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,200,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT NO. 22: At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of Executive Order 13693.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT NO. 23: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF FIRE PREPAREDNESS FUNDS

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer funds made available by this Act for fire preparedness activities to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for fire suppression activities.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT NO. 24: Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,010,000)''.

Page 8, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,902,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT NO. 25: Page 2, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $14,000,000)''.

Page 18, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $11,611,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT NO. 26: Page 3, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT NO. 27: At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

None of the funds made available by this Act for California drought response or relief may be used by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency or the Secretary of the Interior in contravention of implementation of Division 26.7 of the California Water Code (the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014), as approved by the voters of California in California Proposition 1 (2014).

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. SABLAN

AMENDMENT NO. 28: Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $14,114,000)''.

Page 39, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $13,800,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. SABLAN

AMENDMENT NO. 29: Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 38, line 6, after each of the first and second dollar amounts, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. WALDEN

AMENDMENT NO. 30: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to complete or implement the revision of the resource management plans for the Coos Bay, Eugene, Medford, Roseburg, or Salem Districts of the Bureau of Land Management or the Klamath Falls Field Office of the Lakeview District of the Bureau of Land Management proposed in the Bureau of Land Management Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan Revisions and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Western Oregon published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 23046).

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. NEWHOUSE

AMENDMENT NO. 31: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency, with respect to any alleged violation of the Clean Air Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (popularly known as the ''Clean Water Act''), or the Solid Waste Disposal Act, to enter into consent decree that is not made available to the public.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MRS. CAPPS

AMENDMENT NO. 32: Page 21, line 3, after each of the first and second dollar amounts, insert ''(reduced by $5,434,000)''.

Page 64, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,434,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 33: Page 62, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,212,000) (increased by $2,212,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 34: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds $3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. GRIFFITH

AMENDMENT NO. 35: Page 26, line 7, strike ''3'' and insert ''6''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MS. PLASKETT

AMENDMENT NO. 36: Page 38, line 6, after the second dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $13,684,000) (increased by $13,684,000)''.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. BEYER

AMENDMENT NO. 37: Page 73, strike lines 8 through 23.

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. ZINKE

AMENDMENT NO. 38: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS WITH RESPECT TO VALUATION OF COAL

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, or enforce the provisions related to coal valuation of the proposed rule by the Department of the Interior entitled ''Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform'' and dated January 6, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 608).

H.R. 2822

OFFERED BY: MR. ZINKE

AMENDMENT NO. 39: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS WITH RESPECT TO VALUATION OF COAL

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, or enforce subparts F and J of part 1206 of the proposed rule by the Department of the Interior entitled ''Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform'' and dated January 6, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 608).

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015 No. 103

Senate

The Senate met at 9:50 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, from generation to generation, people of faith speak of Your greatness. Thank You for the strength You give to all who love You and for the blessings You bestow upon our Nation.

Today, give our lawmakers the contentment that comes from knowing and serving You. Clear their hearts with Your peace as You bring them into a closer relationship with You.

Shield this land we love against all enemies foreign and domestic as You teach us to dwell in Your peace. Lord, make us to know a constancy of Your presence, to be aware of the certainty of Your judgment, and to give primacy to prayer in these challenging times.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Democratic leader is recognized.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in less than 18 months, Americans all over the country will cast their ballots in the 2016 elections. This exercise fulfills one of the most basic promises of our constitutional democracy: that all citizens have the right to vote, regardless of race, gender, or social status.

This right to vote and the guarantee that each vote counts equally is the foundation of our form of government. It ensures that as this country changes, the elected officials who represent its citizens will also reflect those changes. The electorate should be able to elect those who represent them, their thoughts, and their ideals. Yet, there is an ongoing effort all over America to obstruct the work of perfecting our Union by hindering progress where it is needed the most.

We see this reflected in the debate about whether the Confederate flag—a symbol of bigotry and racism—still has a place on public lands. There should be no debate. The answer to this question is no. And that matter should have been settled long ago. It was not. It took the deaths of nine innocent people, perhaps, to move this issue forward.

We see this reflected in the debate about whether gay people have the right to marry. After all that has gone on, there should be no debate in this regard. The answer to this question is yes. The matter should have been settled long ago.

We see this reflected in the insidious fight to keep certain citizens from exercising their constitutional right to vote by instituting voter ID laws. There should be no debate. The answer to this question is no poll tax or any sort of maneuver designed to prevent voting should exist anyplace at any time. That matter was settled long ago—or at least we thought it was.

The fight is not new. It is deeply rooted in our Nation's history. I finished many years ago now a book, ''Freedom Summer,'' about these courageous, brilliant young men and women who went to Mississippi and spent one summer. It pointed out how the people of Mississippi at that time would do anything they could to keep an African American from voting. That is wrong. The Constitution now grants women and citizens of all races the right to vote. There have long been efforts to undermine that right. We also see it playing out in State capitols across the country. Districts are being gerrymandered to ensure that minority votes have the least possible impact on election outcomes. We have seen it playing out in courtrooms, where the Voting Rights Act has been under attack.

Congress passed the Voting Rights Act 50 years ago—hard to believe but 50 years ago. Historically, it is one of the country's most important laws—or was an important law. It aimed to clear the path to the ballot box for all citizens who choose to vote. But 2 years ago, the Supreme Court, in one of their questionable decisions, struck down a crucial section of the Voting Rights Act, in a 5-to-4 decision in the case of Shelby County v. Holder. As a result of the Court's decision, it is now easier for States to enact laws making it harder for citizens to vote, and they have taken that way past where they should have. Voter ID, shortening the time for early voting—they are doing so many different things to prevent people from voting. It is hard to believe there would be efforts made to stop people from voting.

In the States where we have same-day registration, I am not aware of a single case—not a single case of any type of fraud. The voter turnout where we have same-day registration is tremendous.

In the Presiding Officer's State and my State, there have been efforts made over the years to make sure that 30 days before an election, either a primary or general, no more registrations. How ridiculous. I personally have tried to get that changed for decades, but no luck. The county clerks from 15 rural counties have enough juice in the State legislature to prevent that from happening. It is too bad. Why in the world

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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should we stop registration a month before an election? Election day is when people are so excited about voting. So I am really very disappointed in what is happening in my own State regarding keeping people from voting.

The Voting Rights Act was very important, but now it is harder and harder for people to vote. There is little question that Republican-controlled State legislatures have taken advantage of this decision. I repeat: In States all across this country, Republican-controlled State legislatures have passed burdensome voter ID laws that target minority voters especially, college students especially, and many other groups, to prevent them from voting.

In Ohio—a State that experienced the longest voting lines in the Nation, even longer than the questionable Florida election—the Republican legislature scaled back early-voting hours in an effort to keep people from voting. The legislature in North Carolina eliminated same-day registration when it worked so well and the turnout—it helped significantly. How can we work to form a more perfect union when some States actively work to prevent our fellow citizens from voting?

We have a moral obligation to protect the right to vote for every American citizen. Our country is stronger when every eligible voter participates. The Dean of the Senate, Senator LEAHY, has introduced robust legislation to repair the damage from the Supreme Court's Shelby County decision. I am happy to support the efforts made by the senior Senator from Vermont. His bill will restore the heart of the Voting Rights Act. It will create a new nationwide coverage formula that applies to any State with repeated voting rights violations in the last 25 years. It will also establish a targeted process for reviewing voting changes and also any changes these jurisdictions make all around the country that have a record of discrimination against voters. This bill requires reasonable public notice for voting changes and also allows the Attorney General to request Federal observers to be present in places where a serious threat of racial discrimination may occur.

We must do everything we can to restore and reestablish and defend the Voting Rights Act. Congress must act to protect one of the most important legislative accomplishments of the civil rights era. We should ensure that every American has equal access to the ballot. It is the right thing to do. As Dr. King said many years ago, ''There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.'' To push forward, under the words of Dr. King, is so important.

Let's do everything we can to have people vote. Let's stand together on increasing, not diminishing, one's ability to vote. Why? Because it is the right thing to do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the road to yesterday's win for the middle class on TPA was never going to be an easy one. It was hardly a quick one.

We always knew that was going to be the case, but I thought we owed it to the working men and women of our country to push ahead anyway. So we did. Through every bump and twist along the way, Republicans and Democrats held together.

In achieving something that can open more opportunities for working families, we proved the growing power of good ideas in the new Republican Congress. In passing legislation that can facilitate the lowering of barriers and the lifting up of our workers in the 21st century, we proved that this is a new Congress that is back to work on behalf of the American people.

Passing trade wasn't the first bipartisan achievement of this new Congress, and it won't be the last, but it is significant. It opens the door for more wins for the middle class as trade negotiators move forward under this President and, importantly, under the next President as well.

I thank everyone who worked with us to get here on both sides of the aisle. It is thanks to continued cooperation and no end of determination that we were able to achieve another important accomplishment for our country.

WARRIOR GAMES 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting with some of our Nation's heroes. These men and women are taking part in Warrior Games 2015, an annual DOD-organized sporting event for both veterans and wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers from every corner of the country. This year's games featured approximately 250 athletes from the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marine Corps. All of these wounded warriors gave it their all in heated competition. Their bravery and their perseverance through adversity serve as a source of inspiration to the rest of us. Their determination serves as a continuing reminder that heroism endures long after events on the battlefield.

It was a great honor to meet some of these courageous athletes and their families yesterday afternoon. They were here in the Capitol. I shared the thanks of a grateful nation with many men and women who wear our Nation's uniform or who recently have. I shared my personal gratitude as well, because their heroism and their sacrifice represent an enduring source of freedom for every other American.

I hope they never forget it. I hope they are reminded when looking out to cheering crowds on the field, because America won't forget what the men and women who stood in our defense have given all of us for our freedom.

So let us hope that our Nation will always find brave warriors like them.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, Saturday, June 27, is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day.

Sadly, post-traumatic stress disorder is an affliction that touches too many of our veterans. Raising awareness of PTSD and combatting the myths and misinformation that surround it are incredibly important. There are effective treatments for PTSD, and all of us can do a few simple things in honor of PTSD Awareness Day.

First, we can learn more about PTSD by getting the facts on the condition and its treatment. We can also reach out to somebody who might have PTSD or be at risk, particularly among the veterans community. And, finally, we can pass along what we learned to others to continue to raise awareness.

So I hope Americans will take action on this PTSD Awareness Day to shed some light on an often misunderstood condition and hopefully to reach out to someone in need.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, before I make a unanimous consent request, I wish to say, for the information of my colleagues, that, as happens on occasion, the legislation of the National Defense Authorization Act was in violation of the Ways and Means jurisdiction in the House, which then led to an automatic blue slip, which means that basically, for all intents and purposes, the entire bill comes to a standstill.

In order to repair that, it requires unanimous consent in the Senate in

order to strike the provision and send it back to the House, without the provision which they found objectionable—their Parliamentarian did—and which required the so-called blue slip.

So I appreciate very much the agreement of the Democratic leader, who agreed to this unanimous consent request, so that we can move forward with a conference on the bill and hopefully, if now things go right, we could get it to the President's desk in July.

I thank the Democratic leader, who has agreed to this unanimous consent request, in order that we might move forward. So I express my appreciation to him for allowing this.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives the papers on H.R. 1735, the Secretary of the Senate re-engross the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1735, with the following: Strike section 636.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The bill, H.R. 1735, which was previously ordered to be printed as passed by the Senate, and was printed in the RECORD of Monday, June 22, 2015, was modified by unanimous consent to strike section 636.)

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today in this great country of ours the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare—has survived the latest partisan attempt to deny health coverage to working families. Millions of working families won today. America won today. The Supreme Court ruled against Republicans who were seeking to strip 6.5 million Americans of the subsidies that enable them to buy health insurance coverage. America won, I repeat, very pure, very simple.

More than 10 million Americans are covered in the exchanges operating across the country, many of them insured for the first time, and 85 percent of these men and women receive tax credits that help them afford that coverage.

On top of that, 12 million more Americans now have coverage through the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. The Commonwealth Fund recently found that more than 8 in 10 adults—four-fifths—of people who have these programs are satisfied with them. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect. No law ever is. But this law is working for millions—approaching 20 million—Americans.

Once again, the Affordable Care Act prevailed. So I say to my Senate colleagues, respectfully—and I mean that—stop banging your heads against the wall. This legislation passed. It is the law of this Nation. Stop. Move on. Republicans should pause for a minute and look back.

I don't know the number anymore. I don't know, I lost count—is it 75? It is certainly approaching 100—of the actual votes which have taken place to repeal the law. Never even came close to passing, but they have done it time and time again. Stop it. Think of the time wasted doing it. As Einstein said, the pure definition of insanity is someone who keeps doing the same thing over and over again and gets the same results.

I would hope the Republicans would rethink what they have been up to—their reckless, cynical attempts to increase taxes on millions of middle-income families. That is what it amounts to.

I was interested in looking at the paper today regarding what Republicans have suggested doing if the Supreme Court ruled against this law. Every one of them, without exception, would be a tremendous blow to the budgeting process of America. This bill makes America money. It has cut the deficit significantly. That is why I say it makes the country money. It allows for a more healthy nation.

Republicans weren't content to jeopardize the health of Americans in need of coverage assistance in order to exact political revenge against President Obama. They were happy trying to do that. I also think it is important to note that Republicans who worked on this legislation in the process going through the committees here admitted that the legislation drafters never discussed withholding subsidies in the manner suggested by the plaintiffs. Republicans who worked on the legislation said that.

So I think the public has basically had it with Republicans trying to take away a law that protects them from insurance company discrimination when they get sick or hurt. Enough is enough.

I had a ''Welcome to Washington.'' I have them every Thursday. I had a group of people here from Nevada who have family members who suffer from cystic fibrosis. They were able to tell me that for the first time in the lives of their children they could not be denied insurance. They are adults now. They can't be denied insurance coverage because of this law. If this had been repealed, people with cystic fibrosis and many other diseases would not be able to get health insurance. So let's move on. Stop this. Stop wasting the time of the American people by trying to repeal the law.

I appreciate the work done by the Supreme Court, a 6-to-3 decision. It was a good decision, a strong decision that upheld the law. Enough is enough. Let's move on.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OBAMACARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, that we are even discussing another of ObamaCare's self-inflicted brushes with the brink—yet again—is the latest indictment of a law that has been a rolling disaster for the American people, a rolling disaster for the American people.

Today's ruling will not change ObamaCare's multitude of broken promises, including the one that resulted in millions—literally millions—of Americans losing the coverage they had and wanted to keep. Today's ruling will not change ObamaCare's spectacular flops—spectacular flops—from humiliating Web site debacles to the total collapse of exchanges in States run by the law's loudest cheerleaders. Today's ruling will not change the skyrocketing costs in premiums, deductibles, and copays that have hit the middle class so hard over the last few years.

The politicians who forced ObamaCare on the American people now have a choice: They can crow about ObamaCare's latest wobble toward the edge or work with us to address the ongoing negative impact of a 2,000-page law that continues to make life literally miserable—miserable—for so many of the same people it purported to help.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I have two very brief comments. One involves our national security and the world at large and the other involves our Nation as a whole.

First, as to the Supreme Court ruling. I am surprised. I am disappointed. But the ruling is now in. Senator MCCONNELL said it well: This doesn't mean ObamaCare is fixed; it means it is going to continue until somebody

finds a better way or we are going to be left with ObamaCare for the rest of our lives and children's lives and those who follow.

The 2016 race domestically will be centered on health care as the most dominant domestic issue in the country. If you are running for the House, if you are running for the Senate or if you are running for President, here is what this Supreme Court ruling means: If the public wants to continue ObamaCare—which I think would be a huge mistake—vote Democrat. If you want to repeal and replace ObamaCare with something better for you and your family, bipartisan, vote Republican.

Hillary Clinton, the most likely Democratic nominee, will make ObamaCare her own. Whomever the Republican Party may nominate, the one thing I can assure you is that they will repeal and replace ObamaCare with something better.

So to the people of the United States: You finally have a chance to have your say. This election in 2016 for the House, the Senate, and the White House will give you a chance to stop ObamaCare and replace it with something better for you and your children. Take advantage of this opportunity. Because if we fail to have the people in place in 2016 to change course, ObamaCare becomes cemented in terms of the American health care system and our economic future. I think it would be a mistake for the ages.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, as I speak, Secretary Kerry is on his way to Geneva to try to conclude nuclear negotiations with the Iranian regime.

To Secretary Kerry: I urge you to suspend negotiations until we clear up two matters.

No. 1, the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khameini said on state-run television in Iran, yesterday and the day before, ''All economic, financial and banking sanctions, implemented either by the United Nations Security Council, the United States Congress or the administration, must be lifted immediately when the deal is signed.'' Secretary Kerry, would you please tell the Ayatollah that is unacceptable and repudiate that statement before you negotiate any further.

The Iranian Parliament, several days ago, passed draft legislation prohibiting the international community from having access to Iranian military facilities to determine the state of the Iranian nuclear program. Secretary Kerry, please suspend negotiations until the Iranian Government repudiates this concept. The P5+1 should be firm in these areas: There will never be a deal signed with Iran that does not allow for anytime, anywhere inspections of nuclear sites, particularly military sites. How can you negotiate any further until they repudiate the actions they have taken?

Please tell me—and I will send you a letter—what to tell my constituents who are very worried about this. I am being overwhelmed by questions: Does the Iranian Parliament action represent the position of the Iranian Government? My answer would be yes. Nothing happens in Iran unless the Ayatollah wants it to happen.

So Secretary Kerry and the P5+1, please tell the Iranians that the action of the Parliament—the statement they have made that we will not be allowed to inspect military facilities as part of a deal—is a nonstarter and walk away until they repudiate that. Please send a message to the Ayatollah through the negotiators that we will not lift sanctions until there is full compliance, until the IAEA has a chance to tell us about the possible military dimensions of their nuclear program. How can you lift sanctions and go forward and give them money until you know exactly what they have been up to in the past?

Secretary Kerry, now is a time for you and President Obama to send a clear message to the Iranians: repudiate these two statements or we will not negotiate any further.

This is the most important decision any President of the United States will make, and we are about to go into negotiations in the final stages with two thought processes on the table coming from the highest level of the Iranian Government: You will not be allowed to inspect military facilities, and we will demand immediate sanctions relief before there is verification.

Those two statements coming from the Iranian leadership must be repudiated—and repudiated now. Walk away, Secretary Kerry, until they repudiate these statements. No more negotiations until we understand, is this a red line for the Iranians. Because if this is their red line, I will now ask you in public: Secretary Kerry, are these positions red lines for the Iranian Government? Have they now adopted a red line that you will never be allowed to inspect military facilities as part of an inspection regime to determine the past development of nuclear weapons in Iran? Secondly, is this now a red line by the Ayatollah; that they will never agree to a deal that doesn't allow for immediate sanctions relief?

I need to know the answer to that question. Are these red lines? And if they are red lines, walk away. And if they are not red lines, have these statements repudiated because this is the most important decision the world will ever make.

God help us all if we enter into a deal with this regime that is not sound, with every i dotted and every t crossed, because the Iranians have been cheating and lying about their nuclear ambitions for well over a decade, and at the end of the day, you can't trust the Iranians.

I urge as strongly as possible that the P5+1 suspend negotiations until the Iranians set the record straight and repudiate these statements about denying us access to military facilities and requiring immediate sanctions relief as part of any deal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

THE ECONOMY AND HEALTH CARE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to talk a little bit today about jobs and the economy and people's health care, and they are all related. We are in the midst of one of the slowest growth periods for the economy in the recent history of the United States. They just revised the figures again. That makes three times the figures have been revised for the last quarter. They now show a two-tenths of 1 percent growth. They should be showing about 2 percent growth for the year.

Why is that a problem? If the economy increases by just 1 percent, it results in $300 billion to $400 billion more tax revenue without raising taxes. That is where we need to be. When it is less than that 2 percent, that means we are losing that much in additional money. We make these decisions on about $1,100 billion a year, and we are overspending that by $468 billion. That is almost 50 percent overspending. No family can afford to do that, no city can afford to do that, and no State can afford to do that, but apparently the Federal Government can because we just borrowed more. So far, there is a lot of confidence in this country that we can continue to borrow.

One of the areas where job growth and economy growth are impeded is with health care. President Obama is disconnected from the harsh reality that this health care law has created for people. Almost 2 weeks ago, speaking about his health care law, the President said:

> Part of what's bizarre about this whole thing is, we haven't had a lot of conversation about the horrors of ObamaCare because none of them have come to pass.

None of them have come to pass? How insulated is our President? I just want to emphasize what he said—none of those horror stories have come to pass.

Apparently that message didn't make it very far because I hear a drastically different story from folks across Wyoming and other parts of the country.

A rancher from Gillette complained to me that her and her husband's health insurance went up from $11,000 per year to $20,000 per year and then had a deductible thrown in that was $6,500. She said: How is that affordable?

A retired nurse from Casper told me that if you add the premium increases and the deductible increases, she and her husband are up $36,000 per year.

She wrote: Health care is unaffordable. It is a huge burden and worry. How can people afford to pay more for health care than they make in a year?

She said that ObamaCare doesn't provide them with coverage for their medical needs and added that it goes

against everything they believe in for America.

A man from Cheyenne said the President's health care law is forcing him to choose between paying for his health care or paying for his mortgage.

A small business owner in Newcastle said that before the affordable health care law, she could afford to pay for her employees' health care. After the law went into force, she couldn't. Her employees couldn't afford it, either, so they might leave for a bigger company—which probably isn't possible—and the small business owner might have to sell out to a bigger company, which in many of the towns in Wyoming also isn't going to be possible. She loves her community and wants to stay an active part of it. She is discouraged by the situation this health care law has created and is asking for help.

We have been asking for help for several years now. The President has recognized that there needs to be some help; otherwise, there will be some real calamities. Why haven't they happened? Well, some of them have. I have described some of them to you. But some of them haven't happened. That is because the President has given waivers on some of the things that he knows are atrocious and will cause a huge problem with the economy of the United States. Does he have the authority to do the waivers? Not really, but he did them, and that is to put off the tragedies until later. That is not what we ought to be doing. We ought to be making health care more affordable. There are lots of plans around here for making it more affordable; most of those were just discarded.

The bill that went through here went through—there was a 60-vote majority on that side of the aisle. Sixty votes is enough to pass anything through here. I hope neither party has a 60-vote majority again because you don't have to listen to the other side. You don't have to listen to the unintended consequences that might come from somebody who is knowledgeable because of their background. There are a bunch of different backgrounds who serve here and another 435 backgrounds who serve on the House side. Why do we have so many people in Congress? So that we have those diverse backgrounds and we can find those unintended consequences and adjust for them.

The people I mentioned are real people, real families. They didn't write the story. They and many more like them contacted me. They are telling me and they are telling all of us in Washington to do something about this unworkable health care bill for millions of Americans that is far from affordable, breaks promises, and makes lives harder. I am listening to them, and so should the torch carriers of this federally mandated dream that was broken before it began.

Today's Supreme Court ruling on King v. Burwell is surprising, but it reminds all of us who warned against this health care law that we will have our work cut out for us to move our country away from the failed policies. This law was written and implemented in its entirety by one party, as I mentioned, and has been informed from the start by ideology rather than reality.

There are a number of us who were working on health care before the President even became a Senator, and we have continued to work on it. We have had a lot of discarded ideas that could have increased competition and brought prices down.

This law was written and implemented in its entirety by one party, and it has been informed from the start by ideology rather than reality. Yet, it has fallen to us to make things better and help people get through these difficulties caused by this law.

The Federal Government cannot possibly know what is best for each individual, and, as we have seen, a one-size-fits-all dictate doesn't work. The Wyoming folks whose stories I just relayed and the millions more like them from every State are a testament to that. That is just a very small sample out of the hundreds of people who write to me or talk to me as I travel across Wyoming. Our focus is to offer each of them new choices for quality affordable health care. Our focus is not protecting this failed law, this busted political legacy. We want to protect families as we get rid of ObamaCare and transition away from this fiasco. That is what it is, as is illustrated by the testimonials that I talked about earlier and the hundreds more that I have.

It is time for Republicans and Democrats to truly deliver on the President's broken promise of a health care system that expands access and promotes quality and has patient-centered care while actually bringing the costs down. That is possible, just not under that bill. This is an opportunity for both parties to work together and put into place real solutions that rely on these principles.

I think they just announced that one of the Federal insurance co-ops is going out of business. All of them are severely in the red. Those would be government-sponsored entities that said too much was being charged for health care by many of the insurance companies, and they went for far lower premiums. The hope was that it would bring down the price, but it didn't. That is not the way to encourage the kind of competition we need if we are going to bring down health care costs.

One of the things that has been focused on around here for a long time has been small business health plans or small businesses. Small businesses are the ones that are really having the problem.

I ran into a man who said: I have a very successful business, and I just got a tremendous location that is only 50 miles away where I could open another one. But that would put me over 50 employees, and that puts me in a different category on health care costs. The people who are working for me like the health care costs I am providing, and I would have to go to a whole different level or pay huge fines, and I can't afford to do that. So I am not going to open that other location; I am not going to put 50 more people to work.

For too long, the debate over health care has placed politics over the best interests of patients. No matter the Court's ruling, it is time for Democrats and Republicans to deliver what the President promised but ultimately failed to deliver. We need a health system that expands access and promotes quality, patient-centered care while actually bringing down the costs. We must allow States the freedom and flexibility to ensure that hard-working Americans can get the care they need. It is time for both parties to work together on real solutions that rely on these principles. We should move forward on a bipartisan basis to provide more choices and a better health care system for hard-working Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor to congratulate my colleague, the senior Senator from Wyoming, whom I have worked with for many years and who has been a true leader in true health care reform with proposals he has made that would actually help people get affordable care.

The Obama health care law, regardless of the ruling of the Supreme Court, continues to be an expensive failure. There have been so many broken promises by this President about health care in America, which, to me, is the reason this health care law—the support for it across the country remains at an alltime low.

People were promised that if they liked their coverage, they could keep their coverage. Millions have lost coverage. The President promised: If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Millions have lost their doctors. The President said premiums would go down by $2,500 per family. Instead, premiums have gone up, and there is no end in sight.

When I take a look at this and say ''Why is the support so low?'' it is because most people believe that for them personally, it is a bad deal. They are paying more in premiums, higher copays, and higher deductibles, all of which makes it a bad deal for them personally.

I would say that ObamaCare cannot be fixed, but health care in America must be fixed.

They say: What are you going to do about it as a Republican?

There are incredible Republican plans out there, each of which is much better than the President's health care law. We still have 30 million Americans without insurance, concerned about the fact that they still need care. We are going to continue to work to repeal and replace this health care law with a law that will allow people to get what

Senator ENZI had been talking about. We need patients to get the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs. That is what Republicans are committed to, and that is what Republicans, in spite of today's ruling by the Supreme Court, will continue to work for.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, hopefully, we can move on. After a Presidential election, two Supreme Court cases, 60-plus votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act in the House of Representatives, and endless debates here in the Senate, maybe now is the moment where Republicans will choose to close the books on trying to strip away from millions of Americans the benefits they have received from the Affordable Care Act. This is an important day for over 10 million Americans who have health care right now because of the Affordable Care Act. I would argue it is an important day as well for the separation of powers and the recognition that it is the legislative body that sets the policy for this country.

I just wanted to come down to the floor for a few minutes to express my hope and my desire that proponents of the Affordable Care Act—such as myself, Senator STABENOW, and Senator BALDWIN—who have come down to the floor over and over during the course of the last 3 years don't have to do it anymore. I would love to come down to the floor and talk about the need to fix our transportation system or the need for mental health reform. I would love to talk about tax reform. I have come down to the floor over and over to defend the Affordable Care Act simply because it has been perpetually under attack despite the fact that its successes are now unparalleled.

Justice Roberts, in the decision today—I won't quote from it at length—said: ''Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them.'' That is essentially the operative phrase in today's decision. We passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance marketplaces, not to destroy them, and that is what it has done. It has improved marketplaces all across the country. Why? Because people have voted with their feet. The 10 to 11 million people who signed up for either expanded Medicare, Medicaid coverage or these exchanges have shown us that the law works as intended because they didn't stay out or deem it to be unaffordable. They stepped in and bought coverage.

We should now be in the business of perfecting this law. None of us, frankly, think that this law is perfect. Many of us are open to conversations about how to make it better and how to perfect it. Now that the Supreme Court has completely shut the door to a judicial repeal of the act, and after having debate after debate, hopefully it is clear that there are not the votes—nor the support, obviously, in the executive branch—to repeal the act, and we can move on to something else.

This is an old chart of mine that I have in the Chamber. I brought this down to the floor several months ago when a colleague of ours suggested that the administration shouldn't be celebrating the successes of the Affordable Care Act, as if people receiving health insurance for the first time in their life wasn't something to celebrate, as if 17 million children with preexisting conditions who will never have their health care taken away from them wasn't something to celebrate, and as if 9.4 million senior citizens who are saving $15 billion on drugs isn't something to celebrate. I get excited when I talk about the Affordable Care Act not only because it is a really sober and important topic but because when I talk to my constituents back home, they are excited. They are bubbling over with enthusiasm. Those of them who never had the chance to get health coverage before the Affordable Care Act and those who worried every single night, sick that their child wouldn't be able to live a normal life because their existence would be obsessed with whether they were able to cover their complicated illness with insurance, are bubbling over with enthusiasm.

There are millions of people who are celebrating this decision today, and it is a sober day because, hopefully, we will be able to have a conversation about how we can move on to another topic. But it is a day to celebrate, not only for the 6.4 million Americans, first and foremost, who would have had their insurance taken away by an adverse decision, but for all Americans who would have been caught up in an insurance death spiral had the decision gone the other way.

I hope we can limit our discussions about the Affordable Care Act to ways in which we can make it work better.

So I hope we can now spend more time talking about other topics that matter to this country. I hope the House of Representatives decides to give up this obsession with repealing the Affordable Care Act, which is something that is simply not going to happen. And for its opponents out in the field, the Supreme Court has shut the doors to a judicial repeal of the Affordable Care Act today.

I think of a lot of stories when I think about what the Affordable Care Act has meant to the people of Connecticut. We have cut our uninsurance rates in half in Connecticut. We have one of the best running exchanges in the country. But one of the simplest stories is the only one I will convey as I wrap up this morning.

I was at the community pool that my family goes to in Cheshire, CT, and I was in the pool with my then 2-year-old just shortly after passage of the Affordable Care Act.

A young man about my age came up to me, and he said: Listen, I am sorry, Mr. MURPHY, to disturb you; I know you are here with your son, but I have a little boy, too, and he has a congenital heart problem. Every single day since he has been born, I have worried that he wouldn't get to live out his dreams because his life decisions would be dictated by whether or not he could get insurance to cover all of the complicated health care needs he is going to have and that would be determinative of his path in life, not his dreams, his desires for himself.

He said: I get it that this is going to help a lot of people in very practical and economic ways, but I just want to thank you because now I sleep better at night knowing that my son is going to be able to get covered, that my son is going to be able to lead a relatively normal life, and that he can be whatever he wants to be.

That is the benefit the Affordable Care Act brings people. It is not just practical. It is not just economic. It is not just the battle over whether somebody has health insurance. It is psychological. It is peace of mind.

The Supreme Court protected 6.4 million people from losing their health insurance today, but they also protected tens of millions of patients and parents and sons and daughters and grandparents from losing that peace of mind that comes with the protections from an Affordable Care Act that is working.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

KING V. BURWELL DECISION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, earlier today the Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling in King v. Burwell. As we now know, the Court has once again decided to rule against common sense and the plain meaning of statutory language in order to uphold the poorly drafted Affordable Care Act—which, by the way, Justice Roberts says has a lot of ambiguity and poor draftsmanship. Even worse, with today's decision, the Court's ruling failed to hold the Obama administration accountable for its reckless execution of its own law.

The plain text of the Affordable Care Act authorizes subsidies only through State exchanges, not the Federal exchange. This decision will allow the administration to continue to ignore the law in order to implement its own preferred policies.

(Mrs. FISCHER assumed the Chair.)

As Justice Scalia said in his dissent, ''We should start calling this law SCOTUScare.'' Only Justice Scalia would come up with something like that, which I find extremely humorous.

Justice Scalia continued, saying:

> Perhaps the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will attain the enduring status of the Social Security Act or the Taft-Hartley Act; perhaps not. But this Court's two decisions on the Act will surely be remembered through the years. The somersaults of statutory interpretation . . . they have performed will be cited by litigants endlessly, to the confusion of honest jurisprudence. And the cases publish forever the discouraging truth that the Supreme Court of the United States favors some laws over others, and is prepared to do whatever it takes to assist its favorites.

I couldn't have said it any better myself.

Needless to say, I am disappointed at this decision, as I know many throughout the country are, but at the same time I am undeterred.

As I said on the floor last week, ObamaCare has been nothing but a long series of broken promises that include skyrocketing costs, reduced access to care, and more government mandates hanging over our health care system.

Today's ruling changes none of that. Just because the Court decided to misinterpret, in my opinion, the statute doesn't mean that the law suddenly works and that all is now right with the world. For the good of our health care system and hardworking taxpayers throughout our country, we still need to chart a new course on health care policy. Unfortunately, with the current occupant of the White House, those kinds of reforms are not currently possible.

But make no mistake, Republicans in Congress have a plan to help the American people by repealing ObamaCare and replacing it with reforms that will put patients—not Washington bureaucrats—in charge of their own health care decisions.

I am coauthor of the Patient CARE Act, a legislative proposal that would replace ObamaCare with real reforms that would actually reduce health costs without all the burdensome mandates that have come part and parcel with the so-called Affordable Care Act—which is anything but affordable. Moving forward, I, along with the coauthors of this proposal, Senator BURR and Chairman UPTON over in the House, will continue to seek input from experts and stakeholders and use every opportunity to give States more freedom and flexibility.

Once again, any workable reform must lower costs and put patients first. That is the only way we will end the negative consequences of ObamaCare and help the American people move past this misguided attempt at health care reform.

The American people deserve better, and Republicans in Congress are united in our commitment to make sure we do better on health care reform in the future.

Now, I had suspected that this is the way the court would decide and it is a big enough bill that extremely clever judges could find a way to rule how they did today. And there are few justices as clever as the Chief Justice. I have tremendous respect for him.

And though he used his talents to uphold this law, he did it with aplomb and unparalleled legal skill. I have had colleagues bad-mouth the Chief Justice for this case and especially the Sebelius case.

What few of my colleagues remember, however, is that in the Sebelius decision, the Chief Justice led the way to preserve for States the right to make their own decisions with regard to whether to undertake a Medicaid expansion or not.

Under Obamacare, the Democrats wanted to force the hands of the States—either expand the program, or you would lose all access to Medicaid funds.

That was coercion, pure and simple, and the Court ruled accordingly. And Justice Roberts wrote the opinion, which was joined, at least with regard to the Medicaid expansion, by all conservative justices on the Court.

The Court's decision preserved a real and meaningful choice for the States, and States have used that ability to choose in different ways. Some have expanded Medicaid. Some have not. Some have tried to use waiver authority to craft solutions that work for them. This flexibility is how it should work.

All I can say is that the Chief Justice is a remarkable judge. He is a tremendous human being. I have a tremendous confidence in him and I believe in him. I differ with him on this opinion though. This ruling will not solve any of the problems inherent in Obamacare, as we can see from the continually skyrocketing costs of health care and insurance coverage.

As I have said, clever judges can find ambiguities where none exist. Clever judges can find ambiguities that others may not be able to find. And despite the Chief Justice's brilliance and integrity of character, we need to repeal Obamacare and replace it with something better.

I believe, with Chairman UPTON in the House, and Senator BURR, that the Patient CARE Act is one of the best solutions out there. I urge all of my colleagues to read through our proposal and offer constructive criticism. We need an off-ramp from Obamacare to an actually affordable, and privatized, health care system. Only then can we give every day Americans the economic growth and prosperity they deserve.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

REACH ACT

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, today I wish to discuss the REACH Act, legislation that I have introduced with my colleague, the senior Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, to establish a new category for critical access hospitals in financial distress.

Rural hospitals are an essential yet vulnerable part of our health care system. Rural residents face a unique set of challenges in relation to their urban counterparts. According to the American Hospital Association, rural residents are typically older, poorer, and more likely to have chronic diseases than those living in more developed cities. The unique challenges of caring for patients in underserved areas are not the only hurdles that face rural hospitals today. They have a hard time simply keeping their doors open.

Since January of 2010, approximately 55 rural hospitals nationwide have closed because they could not generate the kind of support or the volume necessary to continue operation. In Colorado, nearly 60 percent of care for patients in underserved areas is provided by hospitals dependent on rural payment mechanisms, and many hospitals are in danger of closing their doors.

I would like to share with you a story about the impact of a rural hospital in my hometown of Yuma, CO, as shared by the CEO of the hospital. Now, I will also tell you that the name of the CEO of the hospital is John Gardner. John Gardner also happens to be the name of my father. They are two different people. My father sells farm equipment. This John Gardner runs a hospital. I think I can tell you that both of them have gotten complaints.

My dad has gotten complaints about the emergency room bill, and John Gardner, this CEO of the hospital, has gotten complaints about a tractor overhaul bill. But they are two different people. But this John Gardner, the CEO of the hospital, does live right next to me in this small town of right around 3,000 people. This is what he said, the CEO of the hospital:

> Because we are located in a rural farming community, we see many farming accidents and motor vehicle accidents. Gravel roads are not the driver's friend. In partnership with the city ambulance service, we have invested a lot of time and training and equipment to be prepared to respond to these accidents. We have two young adults in our community who were involved in serious automobile accidents on gravel roads. Both had severe head trauma which without immediate stabilization would have had terminal outcomes.
>
> Because of our hospital we were able to treat and transport both to level 1 trauma centers for complete treatment and following extensive rehabilitation are now back with their families.

Stories like this and the invaluable lifesaving services provided by rural

hospitals are why we need a new system, a new system that recognizes the financial challenges and obstacles that rural hospitals face today. Without an adjustment, there may be more facilities closing. A 2014 report by the National Rural Health Association identified 283 additional hospitals at risk of closing.

Now, we saw 55 nationwide hospitals already close. An additional 283 rural hospitals around the country are at risk of closing. Ensuring that rural communities have access to the lifesaving care they need is why I am introducing—and joining Senator GRASSLEY—the Rural Emergency Acute Care Hospital Act or the REACH Act.

The REACH Act aims to allow rural hospitals which are in financial distress to become a new category of hospital, called a rural emergency hospital. Here is the problem and why we need to pass the REACH Act. Under current law, critical access hospitals are classified as hospitals maintaining no more than 25 acute care beds. These hospitals rely on rural payment mechanism for Medicare reimbursements for outpatient, inpatient, laboratory, therapy services, and post-acute swing-bed services.

As the medical service industry has evolved, patients find it more and more attractive to have services requiring rural hospital admission performed in large city hospitals because inpatient services are delivered there on a more routine basis. We see more people leaving rural hospitals to go to the city hospitals because they perform these inpatient services more regularly.

The problem, of course, is that leaves rural hospitals without enough inpatient volume to cover their costs, oftentimes resulting in hospital closures. So when a critical access hospital—again, these are hospitals defined under the law as 25 acute care beds. When a critical access hospital has to shut its doors for inpatient services, it has to stop providing inpatient services, it also means the emergency care closes with it.

So now you have a hospital no longer providing inpatient services and no longer offering emergency care. But as highlighted by my hometown story—the story I just shared from the CEO of the hospital, timely access to emergency services is truly the difference between life and death. Those two young men who would have faced a terminal outcome were saved because of the availability of a rural hospital emergency room.

So when dealing with life-threatening injuries, it is critical for patients to receive the kind of health care they need, that lifesaving care to prevent the terminal outcome within the golden hour. That is something doctors and hospitals use—a term for medical professionals—meaning that hour after injury where it is absolutely critical that they receive treatment, that can make the difference between survival—if they do not receive their care during this critical golden hour, their condition could rapidly deteriorate.

Recent statistics from the National Conference of State Legislatures found that 60 percent of trauma deaths in the United States occur in rural areas but only represent 15 percent of the overall population. So if we are talking about why we need access to rural emergency hospitals, the statistic is very clear: 60 percent of rural trauma deaths in this country occur amongst a population that only represents 15 percent of the overall population. That is a pretty dramatic number.

It is critical that we provide rural hospitals that are under financial distress the necessary tools to prevent closures for those living in isolated areas, to make sure they have the same access to emergency services. The solution is the REACH Act, a solution Senator GRASSLEY and I are working on together, to allow rural hospitals in financial distress to switch from being a critical access hospital to this new category called a rural emergency hospital.

This new category would offer reimbursement rates that are consistent with the care, needs, and capabilities of rural hospitals, but more importantly allowing them to remain open, keeping that critical emergency room service open. Now, the emergency hospital must provide emergency medical care and observation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by onsite staff.

So we are still providing quality care, but we are allowing them to overcome the fact that they have seen their inpatient services decline, enabling them to keep their emergency services open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make sure trauma patients can see the doctor and be provided the necessary medical care they need during that all-important golden hour.

The bill would also establish protocols for the timely transfer of patients in need of a higher level of care and patient admittance. The Presiding Officer and I both came from rural States, where we know—there are hospitals in our States that are facing financial challenges. There have been stories in newspapers in Colorado about the struggles some communities are having maintaining their services, keeping their doors open. But there are stories in each and every one of these communities like the story John Gardner told about those two young people in my hometown who otherwise would have had a terminal outcome but for the availability of the emergency care in rural Colorado.

So to avoid missing out on the services necessary to keep people alive, to make sure rural patients have access to care during that critical golden hour, the REACH Act provides our hospitals with an opportunity to keep health services and hospitals available across rural America—available, open with emergency care, giving troubled hospitals an avenue to keep their doors open and to keep providing the lifesaving care we all so desperately want in each of our communities, rural or urban.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the time on the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support the REACH Act. We are always reaching out for more cosponsors in a bipartisan fashion to make sure we can do the best job possible providing health care to rural America, to urban America, and to make sure we keep these hospitals open.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRAGEDY IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss my hometown of Baltimore and the city's recovery after the civil unrest related to the Freddie Gray case. But first let me say a few words about the heartbreaking events in South Carolina. Words are inadequate to express the heartache of yet another mass shooting. Gun violence regularly takes far too many victims in Baltimore and other cities across the country, but to have a place of worship violated in such a hateful way is inexplicable.

My prayers are with the Mother Emanuel AME Church, its congregants, and the people of Charleston, SC, at this difficult time. I appreciate the Department of Justice's swiftness in opening a hate crimes investigation of this tragedy. Despite the alarming frequency of such shootings, we as a nation cannot become complacent and immune to the pain and anguish caused by these instances.

Every time a senseless shooting takes place, there should be more and more of us who shout to the Heavens in protest as loudly as we can. As parents, we have a responsibility to teach our children to focus on things that unite all people and to view differences as strengths, rather than seeds for hatred and resentment. As lawmakers, we need to move from a place of political inertia to stop guns from getting into the hands of people who use them for the wrong reasons. We have mourned too many good people—men, women, and children—to stand idly by.

I am pleased State leaders have come together for the removal of the Confederate flag from the grounds of South Carolina's statehouse. I urge the State legislature to move quickly to permanently remove this symbol of intolerance from government facilities.

BALTIMORE ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Now, as I travel around Baltimore, and particularly the neighborhoods that are trying to recover, I hear a recurring theme from constituents: They don't feel their government truly represents them and their interests. They don't feel government has fully invested in recovery efforts in

their communities. They don't feel fully enfranchised.

So what steps have the local government and Federal Government taken so far? We have seen our State's attorney in Baltimore indict several police officers on numerous criminal charges as a result of the death of Freddie Gray. Mr. Gray suffered a severe spinal cord injury while in police custody, which ultimately led to his death.

The judge in this case has scheduled a trial to begin in October. At the Federal level, even before the Freddie Gray case, I had called for the Justice Department to intervene regarding allegations of brutality and misconduct by the Baltimore Police Department. In October 2014, the Maryland congressional delegation sent a letter to the Justice Department in support of greater Federal involvement with our local police force.

DOJ agreed to this request and opened a collaborative review process with their COPS Office in Baltimore City. Shortly after the Freddie Gray case came to light in April of 2015, I sent a letter, along with the Maryland congressional delegation, asking the Justice Department to open a pattern or practice investigation into civil rights violations in the Baltimore Police Department.

DOJ agreed to this request and opened the investigation, which is still ongoing, at the same time that the State trial for the police officers is occurring. For those of us who live in Baltimore, the events over those last couple of weeks have been heartbreaking. The city we love has gone through very difficult times. I wish to thank my colleagues who have contacted Senator MIKULSKI and me for offering their help, for offering their understanding, and for their willingness to work together so we can deal with the issues that have been raised in Baltimore and other cities and other places around our country.

It is our responsibility to move forward. The people of Baltimore understand that. We understand the national spotlight will be leaving, and we are going to deal with the issues that are left behind. I want to thank the administration for their high-level involvement as Baltimore gets back on its feet. Our congressional delegation and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has had the opportunity to meet at the White House with senior administration officials and Cabinet Secretaries to support our local priorities, including jobs, economic growth, education, housing, and law enforcement.

I thank President Obama for making Baltimore a top priority. Team Maryland is committed to working with the White House and Cabinet agencies to ensure that the tools and resources available from the Federal Government—from improving housing and increasing quality jobs to supporting our schools and small businesses, to providing citizens with second chances and expanding programs to rebuild the trust between neighborhoods and law enforcement—are brought to bear in Baltimore as a national model for the restoration of hope and opportunities in our cities.

As Congressman CUMMINGS has said: This is a transformational moment for Baltimore. It is finally time that we look at comprehensive steps to restore hope and trust in our neighborhoods. We need to ensure that all our citizens' rights are preserved, while giving police the tools they need to reengage with families and individuals that they are there to protect.

Last week, I introduced the BALTIMORE Act, S. 1610, with Senator MIKULSKI as my cosponsor. The legislation stands for Building and Lifting Trust in Order to Multiply Opportunities and Racial Equality. The components of the BALTIMORE Act are powerful antidotes to many of the long-term ills facing our city and others. We must simultaneously promote economic development and opportunities for our cities.

But this bill gives individuals and law enforcement a second chance to do the right thing and contribute in a positive way to their families, their neighborhoods, and the larger community. The BALTIMORE Act contains legislation from this Senator and other Senators as well as new legislative ideas. The BALTIMORE Act consists of four titles. The first title deals with law enforcement. The BALTIMORE Act contains the text of my legislation, S. 1056, which is the End Racial Profiling Act. I have talked on the floor before about ending racial profiling. It should have no place in law enforcement in our communities. It is counterproductive, it turns communities against law enforcement, it is costly, and it can be deadly.

Now, if you have specific information about a person who has committed a crime, you can use that. That is not profiling. But when you target a community solely because of race, that has to end. The first title of the BALTIMORE Act also contains several reforms championed by Senator MIKULSKI, as part of the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill, approved by the committee for fiscal year 2016.

The legislation would require local law enforcement officials receiving Byrne-JAG and COPS Hiring Program funds to submit officer training information to the DOJ, including how their officers are trained in the use of force, countering racial and ethnic bias, deescalating conflicts, and constructive engagement with the public. It requires State and local police departments to promptly submit the use-of-force data to the FBI.

The legislation requires the Department of Justice to issue a report on a plan to assist State and local law enforcement agencies to improve training in the use of force, in identifying racial and ethnic bias, and in conflict resolution through the course of officers' careers.

The final piece of this title I act establishes a pilot program to assist local law enforcement in purchasing or leasing body-worn cameras and requires privacy study. I thank Senators SCHATZ and PAUL for introducing this legislation as the CAMERA Act, S. 877.

The second title involves voting rights reform and civil rights restoration. It includes the text from my legislation, S. 772, the Democracy Restoration Act.

My legislation will restore voting privileges for those who have completed their prison terms. I know I have support on both sides of the aisle. We have had a vote on this, and a near majority have agreed on it. Those who opposed it said it was on the wrong bill. Well, let's move it forward.

Once individuals have completed their sentencing, they should be welcomed back to our community so that they can be productive, law-abiding citizens, so they know they have become part of our community and they believe they have a future.

They should be able to serve on our juries. There is not a person in the Senate who didn't have a second chance sometime in their life. We should look at second-chance opportunities. In part our legislation provides additional funding for second-chance type programs that would employ those who have had criminal convictions. We also have the sense of Congress to end ''check-the-box'' so that in Federal contracts all persons have an opportunity to participate.

The third title deals with sentencing reform. I have spoken to some of my colleagues about some of the sentencing guidelines we have in this country. We need to take a look at our criminal justice system and the sentencing guidelines to recognize that if a person is of a certain race, a certain religion or ethnic background, that person is much more likely to end up in prison today even though the instance of violating the laws are not different in that community than in other communities in the country. We have to deal with it. The country has to deal with it.

The fourth title of the bill—the last title—deals with the reentry programs that I have already talked about. We need to finance those.

It may take time for Baltimore to recover fully from the damage done to its business and national image by the tragic events following the recent death of Freddie Gray, but this great city will come back. I am optimistic when it comes to Baltimore's future. From its earliest days, Baltimore's industrial and financial business sectors have proven themselves resilient and innovative, and these same qualities will be vital in the days ahead.

I am confident that together we can find ways to help Baltimore recover and grow all sectors of its diverse economy, spurring community improvements along way.

We also need to have a serious discussion about sentencing reform and finding ways to restore the lost trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The BALTIMORE Act will allow us to move decisively in that direction by ending racial profiling, increasing accountability, collecting critical crime data such as officer-related shootings, and providing real strategies and resources to strengthen police-community relations. These measures will help protect the rights of every American on every side of our justice system.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

OBAMACARE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, when I have constituents come to Washington, DC, I typically will describe this as being a little bit like Disneyland. It is a lot of fun to visit, with a lot of excitement. A lot of things happening here, but it is not real. It is not real.

What I mean by that is that what is real are the lives that are lived by the average American families all across this country, whether it is Nebraska, Texas or elsewhere and the struggles they have trying to raise their children, trying to get a good education, trying to keep a job—to keep a job that has good wages and one that hopefully grows over time. But in Washington, the focus is typically on winners and losers—winners and losers. If you look at almost any newspaper each week in Washington, they will talk about the winners and the losers. Usually, they are talking about political figures such as the President of the United States.

So I just happened to catch one headline that talked about the President being the biggest winner of the week in Washington, DC.

Why? Well, one is because of the trade promotion authority legislation that we passed that we worked with the President on. That happened to be a subject that I agreed with the President on—the importance of opening new markets to the things that we grow, the livestock we raise, and the manufactured goods we make. Hopefully, we will be able to enter into a good deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, opening up 40 percent of the world's economy in Asia to the new markets for the things that we make, grow, and the livestock we raise.

So that happened to be a subject on which I agreed with the President. He had more problems with his own party. We got 13 Senate Democrats to join us in passing this legislation, but we got it done. I think in that instance—maybe you could call the President a winner if you want—you could say that the American people were the winner, and I think that would be accurate too.

But on the loser's side of the ledger, we had a disappointing decision by the U.S. Supreme Court today, where they ignored the clear language that Congress wrote when the Affordable Care Act was passed in March of 2010. Even worse, while the press may consider that this represents a win for the President, there is no question in my mind that the vast majority of the American people are the losers as a result of this decision. The fact is that ObamaCare has been a disaster for millions of hard-working families, and it was really sold under false pretenses.

The President said: If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor.

Well, that ended up not being true.

If you like your policy, you can keep your policy.

Well, that ended up not being true for roughly 5 million people who lost their insurance coverage that they liked because the law said they couldn't keep it anymore.

Then there was the fact that the President said this: Prices of health coverage for an average family will come down $2,500.

None of those proved to be true.

So despite the Supreme Court's disappointing decision, I will not stand down in my opposition to this bad law, because I know we can do better. I look forward to working with our colleagues to eventually protect the American people from the harmful effects of ObamaCare and get the American people what they thought they were going to get out of health care reform in the first place—coverage they wanted at a price they could afford, neither one of which is delivered under ObamaCare.

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SENATE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as I indicated initially, this Congress—and particularly the Senate—has had an unusually productive period of time of late. It may be hard for some people to believe, but the most common word I heard used to describe Congress last year, and in recent years, has been ''dysfunctional.'' But we have actually been functioning very well. We have been able to accomplish quite a bit.

Today the Senate is marked by something that we refer to as regular order. What does that mean? It means that we operate according to the rules, where not only the majority but also the minority get to participate in the process, both at committees and on the floor of the Senate. If anybody has a good idea, they can offer that idea, and they can actually get a vote on it up or down.

I was pleased to read in the Wall Street Journal yesterday that two former Republican majority leaders wrote that they were encouraged to see ''the Senate addressing big problems after years of inaction.'' I couldn't agree more.

Bringing the amendment process back is one obvious way we have done so under the new majority after years of inaction. Now that may sound like inside baseball or just talking about procedure, but by allowing Members of both parties—the minority and the majority—to offer their ideas on legislation, we have restored the ability of all Members of the Senate, as elected representatives of the people, to cast our votes on numerous issues that affect all of our constituents and the country.

But restoring such a simple process, one that had been largely absent during the years the minority leader held the reins, represents a real sign of progress.

At the beginning of this year, it was reported that just 3 weeks into the new Senate, we had voted on more amendments than the minority leader had allowed during the last year in its entirety. Let me say that again, because it is pretty shocking. In the first 3 weeks of this year, we had voted on more amendments than the minority leader—when he was majority leader—allowed in the entire previous year.

Well, it would mean nothing if it didn't reflect the core philosophy of the new leadership of this Chamber. In other words, our successes on amendment votes didn't stop after our first month in the new Congress. I am now proud to say that voting is now the norm, instead of the exception to the rule.

What did our constituents send us here to do, if not to vote? During the last 6 months, the Senate has voted on 136 amendments in legislation, compared to just 15 last year. We are working for the American people, and, more importantly, the Congress is now working on their behalf and actually beginning to solve real problems that have lingered for years.

But we have done more than just allow amendments and votes on amendments. During the last few months, we have passed more than 40 bipartisan bills. Now, if anybody has been here for very long, one of the things they learned, perhaps to their chagrin, is that you can't do anything around here on a purely partisan basis. You just don't have the numbers to do it—with some notable exceptions. But we passed more than 40 bipartisan bills, and we have seen 18 of those already signed into law by the President.

This includes important legislation that I am very proud of called the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which passed this Chamber 99 to 0 and is focused on making sure we help the victims of modern-day slavery recover and rebuild their lives and making sure that these women, typically teenage girls, are treated as victims and not criminals.

We have also passed other important legislation, such as the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. This law will give Congress the time and space to closely scrutinize any deal that the President negotiates with Iran concerning its pursuit of nuclear weapons. In so doing, we will make sure that the American people, through their elected representatives, can voice their opinions on what could be a bad deal that

could jeopardize our national security and that of our allies, such as the nation of Israel.

Then there is the National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed this last week and which will provide our men and women in uniform the authorities and the resources they need to protect and defend our Nation against rising threats around the world.

And, as I mentioned at the beginning, just yesterday we passed trade promotion authority, which will soon be heading to the President's desk. It provides Texas farmers, ranchers, and small businesses the opportunity to find new markets around the world through pending and future trade agreements.

We also see significant progress in many other bills that the Senate may soon consider, bills that our committee chairs have been tirelessly moving forward. This includes more than 110 bills that have been reported out of committee and legislation such as the PATENT Act, a bill I have been very involved in, which helps startups and small businesses that are too often wasting their time and money fighting costly, frivolous litigation.

It is good to see that the Senate is back working for the American people, and it is my hope that we can, on a bipartisan basis, continue to build on our strong record so far this Congress and to continue to work productively, where we can, to serve those who elected us.

The Senate is starting to build some momentum. With several appropriations bills looming, we need to keep getting things done and to continue providing real solutions to the problems it faces.

Although my friends across the aisle suggested that they will launch a filibuster summer, I would like to stress that would undercut the good progress and the productivity we have demonstrated so far, and it would also frustrate the American people and only harm those whom we are sent here to represent, not the least of which are our troops and veterans.

So let's do away with this irresponsible idea of a filibuster summer, and let's work together to try to do the Nation's business.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to say a couple of things before I speak to the issue that brought me to the floor today.

I have been listening to our leader from Texas talk about so many of the advances we have seen in the Senate this session. I think it is important to acknowledge and note that we are making progress. Often we get labeled in the media for being that ''do-nothing Congress,'' that entity which is just engaged in loggerheads and deadlock. But I think the truth is and the facts on the ground are that we are seeing substantive legislation passed, just as the Senator from Texas has noted.

I was pleased to lead off the Senate with the first bill on the floor in this Congress—the Keystone XL Pipeline. It was good to be back at work in a body that was entertaining amendments from both sides and offered by my colleagues without any direction or dictation from the majority side—an opportunity for the give-and-take that comes with not only good debate but not knowing whether your amendment is going to pass or fail. That is how the legislative process works.

The occupant of the Chair is a former member of a State body, as am I. We know that is how you build legislation, the good, constructive back-and-forth. We saw that with the Keystone XL debate. We moved that through both bodies. The President chose to veto it. I think it is a mistake on his part. I would like to see us resolve that eventually. But I do think it reflects the way that we as a Chamber can work and the way a constructive majority can work. So I applaud the leadership of the majority in getting us to this point and through some very difficult issues. We are going to have some good things coming up, and I look forward to further engaging in debate on those.

FIRES IN ALASKA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I want to mention very quickly what is on the front page of my newspapers in the State of Alaska this week and has been for a couple of weeks now. Our fire season started very early and with an intensity that has really attracted concern not only within the State but outside the State. Currently, we have about 545 fires that have begun within the State, both in the interior, where we traditionally see them, but also down in Southcentral, fires that have taken homes and properties.

In the first part of the fire season, there was a great deal of attention on the community of Willow, an area that hosts the homes of many of our famous and our infamous dog mushers, mushers who mush along the Iditarod Trail and other parts. The articles have been about the dislocation of not only the mushers who have lost their homes but also trying to find places for up to 600 sled dogs for temporary relocation.

So there has been a great deal of concern about the fire status in Alaska. As I mentioned, 545 fires have burned, 427,881 acres as of yesterday evening. That is a significant total. It is a very significant total, but it is pretty small in comparison to where we were in 2004 when we saw almost 5 million acres burn. In 2004, 4.7 million acres burned, and in 2005, we had 2.2 million acres.

We are hopeful that the weather is going to change and that we will get on top of this. But when I was home in Fairbanks in the interior on Saturday, on Saturday alone we saw 6,500 lightning strikes at a time and a place where it is very dry in the interior and has been for some time. So fire danger is very real.

My point this morning is not to give the weather report but to acknowledge publicly the efforts of the men and women who have been engaged so bravely and so heroically in fighting these wildland fires, fighting these fires all over the State in extreme conditions, in difficult conditions where wind can come in at the last minute and change the direction of the fires and not only threaten the property but the safety of our firefighters.

Right now, we have about 3,300 fire personnel in the State of Alaska. About 2,200 of them are fighting fires on the ground. Over 1,000 of these are men and women from Alaska. Many of them are hotshots and are firefighters from the villages who have a great deal of expertise, but we also rely on many who come from the lower 48 to assist us during this time of our wildfires. We thank them and we pray for their safety and for those who have been left homeless, whose property has been damaged, whose lives have been upended by these very difficult fires. Know that our hearts go out to you, and whatever efforts we are able to provide for assistance, we stand ready to do so. And a very heartfelt thank-you to those who are fighting these fires.

EPA RULE ON WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I came to the floor today to speak about an issue—a regulation that has raised a level of concern and controversy in my State of Alaska like no other we have seen in a long time, and this is in regard to the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers and their release of a final version of a rule that significantly increases the ability of these agencies to regulate more of our land and our water. I am speaking specifically to the rule that expands the definition of ''waters of the United States'' under the Clean Water Act.

Coming from the State of Nebraska, an agriculture State, I am sure the Presiding Officer has heard concerns from constituents and farmers about the expansion of this definition and what it may mean to our economies.

The EPA claims this rule—and we lovingly refer to it as WOTUS—is a clarification to provide certainty and predictability as to where clean air permits are required. But the view of so many Alaskans—and really the view around the country—is that this rule is far beyond a simple clarification because it substantially increases EPA's regulatory reach. It will subject countless new projects to permitting requirements that will be difficult to satisfy, increasing cost and certainly increasing project delays.

The application of the WOTUS in Alaska is expansive and it is negative. It is something I have described as a showstopper in the past, and none of the changes in the final rule alter that

description. If anything, they just serve to reinforce it. The rule really was a showstopper when it was drafted, and it remains at least as bad and damaging today.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there are more than 174 million acres in Alaska that are wetlands. There are 174 million acres in the State that are considered wetlands, so compare this: The entire State of Texas is 172 million acres. Everyone in the lower 48 thinks Texas is a pretty big State. My friend JOHN CORNYN was here earlier. Texas has 172 million acres. In Alaska, we have 174 million acres of wetlands. So take the whole State of Texas and turn it into wetlands, and that is what we are looking at in Alaska.

Look at this map for a little bit of context. Under the old rule, 43.3 percent of Alaska's surface is considered wetlands compared to about 5.2 percent of the surface area in the lower 48. This map is pulled from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wetlands finder Web site. It may be difficult to see, but these areas in the brighter green are all the wetlands. The area of southeastern Alaska, where I was born and raised, is entirely wetlands. The entire southeastern part of the State is wetlands—in Fairbanks, in the interior area, Southcentral, all around Prince William Sound, all the southwest.

But I think it is important to note that this Web site which Fish and Wildlife has is lacking data for a significant part of Alaska, and so the map is effectively incomplete. The last study conducted by the Service on the status of wetlands in the State was done back in 1994, which really puts it out of date. It doesn't take into account the recent Supreme Court decisions of Rapanos and SWANCC. So we have another map here that I think is instructive to look at as well.

This map is pulled from a study by the University of Michigan and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. In this map, they use L-band radar satellite imagery. It probably produces a more complete and accurate view of the wetlands in the State. Again, we see all of these areas that are considered wetlands, but, in effect, more parts of the State are considered wetlands or viewed as wetlands than not.

So what we have between these two maps—between what Fish and Wildlife has done and what the University of Michigan and the California Institute of Technology has done—are some discrepancies, but it illustrates the problem. The problem is that nobody really knows what will be considered wetlands by the EPA and by the Corps, and if the new rule takes effect, that problem will only be compounded because it declares that any water or wetland within 4,000 feet of a ''categorically jurisdictional water'' will now be subject to this ''significant nexus'' analysis. That analysis will include the entire water at issue even if only a tiny part of that lies within the 4,000-foot boundary.

If you are like most Americans, you probably and understandably have no idea how to define a categorically jurisdictional water. You probably don't have any interest in learning how to define it. But what you may soon find is that it is going to impact you because it will include all waters used or susceptible to use in interstate commerce, all interstate waters, the territorial seas, all tributaries to those bodies of waters, and all waters adjacent to all those other enumerated waters. That is a lot of water.

Again, you probably and understandably aren't familiar with this significant nexus analysis, either. I mean, really, what does that mean? Here is a way to help put it into context. If you have a 500-acre plot of land and within that 500 acres you have 10 square feet that are within 4,000 feet of any jurisdictional water, your entire parcel—the whole 500-acre plot—will now be evaluated as a whole. Even though the area we are talking about where there are wetlands is like 10 square feet out of 500 acres, the whole thing is considered as a whole. The significant nexus analysis must include all similarly situated waters. So, again, you will have a situation where EPA and the Corps are going to interpret broadly.

What does all this mean in terms of application? It is interesting, looking at maps and having this discussion about categorically jurisdictional waters and significant nexus, but let's take a specific example.

Take the community of Fairbanks, where I spent a lot of time growing up. Fairbanks is in a valley, it is in the Tanana Valley surrounded by a pretty large watershed. The Tanana River, Chena River, we have a situation in this area in Fairbanks where all of the wetlands in the basin have been declared similarly situated. What that means is that a landowner will be forced to prove that none of the wetlands in the basin, as a whole, have a significant physical, chemical or biological connection to either the Tanana or the Chena Rivers. That is practically an impossible hurdle. There are thousands of acres of wetlands in that basin that are now all effectively subject to jurisdiction under this new rule. Every single person who wants to do any sort of development in Alaska's second-largest city will now be required to get some form of a permit. This includes the guy who wants to build a cabin up on Chena Ridge or the small dredge operator out in the Goldstream Valley or the developer out in North Pole who wants to put in a new subdivision. To all of them: Go out and get your permit.

The bureaucratic mess that is the 404 permitting process has already held back crucial development within the State, and this new rule is only going to make things worse. Now, I wish to go further to the Fairbanks example and to tell the story of Richard Schok. He has a company called Flowline. He has been engaged in an ongoing battle with the Corps since May 21, 2008. That was the day Richard submitted a permit application to the Corps. It was a reapplication for a permit which had been granted back in 2003. We might think, OK, this is just a reapplication. This is a permit which has been in place now for 5 years. It should have been an easy matter. Instead, Richard is still fighting the Corps—this many years after, still fighting the Corps for a new permit. Since 2008, the Corps has connected the piece of property at issue to the Tanana River, the Chena River, and something known as Channel B, which is a manmade waterway used for flood control purposes.

The Agency's first attempt to establish jurisdiction over his private land, which consists of 455 acres outside of Fairbanks, was through the Tanana River. They looked at it, and after administrative review, it was held there was no connection between the subject land and the Tanana. So we would have thought we were done with it. But, no, rather than just allow Mr. Schok to develop his private land, the Corps then switched theories on him and said: No, we think the land is connected to the Chena River instead. But then they went further than that. They settled on a third theory, and that was that the wetlands had a direct connection to Channel B. Channel B is over 2 miles away from Mr. Schok's property via a small 20- to 50-foot-wide wetland arm, since Channel B drains into the Chena River. So when you are talking about a significant nexus, how remote could you possibly be.

So there are a couple problems with this analysis. First, the strip of land they labeled as wetlands wasn't wetlands at all. People drive four-wheelers on it. You can walk on it in tennis shoes. Basically, this is the land they are describing as wetlands. The guy has taken a core sample here. It is muddy underneath, but effectively this is what is being considered the wetlands. Second, Channel B contributes less than 1 percent of the total flow to the Chena River. We would think that should not suffice for a finding of a significant nexus, but the Corps thinks it does. So to date, this permitting battle has cost Mr. Schok over $200,000, and that doesn't count the 1,000 man-hours he and his staff have put into the project. All he is trying to do is move his business from its current location, which is limited in size, to this new piece of land—his private property—and open a new powder coating plant. The move would allow him to expand his operations, employ more people, and contribute to the growth of Alaska. But since 2008, he can't make it happen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to continue for an additional 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I also wish to speak to how the rule impacts the development of hydropower in the State of Alaska. We are looking to find energy solutions, clean energy solutions. Hydropower is huge for us. Alaska has nearly 300 prime locations for hydrodevelopment, nearly 200 in Southeast Alaska alone, but many of them require the construction of powerhouses or transmission lines that may rest on wetlands or cross wetlands as defined by the new rule—and that is a big problem.

A good example of this is Crater Lake, a fishing community of Cordova, down in Prince William Sound. Crater Lake is at an elevation of 1,600 feet, straight up from the ocean. Cordova has been looking at this small hydro opportunity to advance their energy solutions. It is clean. It is renewable. It is carbon free. There are no fish issues. So this is perfect for them. Prior to WOTUS, it was anticipated that it would be about a 12- to 18-month process to permit this small hydroproject. What the Federal nexus WOTUS brings, this project is now likely to end up in the FERC process, and what was expected to be about $150,000 to $200,000 in permitting costs is now looking to be closer to $1 million and take potentially 3 to 5 years. Think about it. For a small community like Cordova that is trying to find small energy solutions for this fishing community, these additional costs are likely going to kill this small project. And what happens? The community continues providing their power by diesel, when we have a clean opportunity, but that opportunity is going to be suffocated by this rule.

Most of coastal Alaska, with its rugged mountains filled with rivulets and waters, will be subject to these case-by-case determinations. Simply performing the science and providing justification to the EPA for these adjacent water determinations will add cost to projects and likely delay any development as the determinations are litigated.

If any projects do make it to the finish line, their higher costs under this rule will mean their electricity is ultimately less affordable for Alaskans. The costs we face when developing in Alaska are already steep enough. They will be magnified and worsened by the final WOTUS rule. I am grateful to our colleagues on the EPW Committee, who recently reported out bipartisan legislation, which I cosponsored, which requires the agencies to develop a better rule.

These two bills will help provide relief to local governments. The Infrastructure Rehabilitation Act will allow the Secretary of the Army to waive the notice and comment period required by the Clean Water Act when a natural disaster has damaged critical infrastructure and a local government needs to rebuild.

We also have the Mitigation Facilitation Act, which will allow the Secretary to provide loans to local governments in order to ease the burden created by 404 permits and the overreaching scope of the new WOTUS rule. If the Federal Government is going to require hugely burdensome and expensive mitigation projects, effectively an unfunded mandate, the government should assist municipalities by providing loans and loan guarantees to small local entities. So I have introduced these two bills and am looking forward to having them move forward, in addition to what the EPW Committee has done.

Alaska will be the State most heavily impacted just because of the nature of our wetlands. An analyst done by EPA and the Corps suggests that at the high end, the mitigation costs to Alaska could be $55,000 per acre—$55,000 an acre. With 43 percent of our land requiring mitigation for any sort of development, these costs will halt many development projects. And when combined with the cost of even getting a permit, which averages about $270,000, economic development will be seemingly impossible in many parts of the State.

But it goes further than that because EPA can also issue civil penalties for violations of a permit or for failing to have a permit when it thinks you should have one. These penalties can be assessed at a rate of up to $37,500 per day and doubled if the person being fined has been issued an administrative compliance order and EPA decides there has been a violation of that order. The threat of these penalties is another cost that people have to take into account when they are developing property.

There are so many places in Alaska that are more than 4,000 feet away from some kind of water. We are close to water. We are close to water everywhere. We have too many rivers, too many lakes, too many wetlands. We love them all. But we are the only State that has permafrost, and we have no idea at this point in time whether or not, and under what circumstances, these areas might be regulated. We have incredible uncertainty working against.

The bottom line is that the new WOTUS rule will have results that in many cases will just be absurd in Alaska and add significant, significant costs. For us, this rule is the equivalent of the Roadless Rule that killed off logging in the Tongass National Forest, ending hundreds of jobs.

I know this is an issue that many of us in this body care about, many of us in this country care about. It speaks to what we see when we have agencies that go beyond their jurisdictional authority, that go beyond the scope of the laws that were passed with good intentions. I want us to get back to that place of laws that allow us to have clean air, clean water. But when we see interpretations like we have with this, it is time to stop them.

Madam President, I thank my colleague for the indulgence of some additional time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise as negotiations between the P5+1 nations and Iran enter their final phase. The President deserves our thanks for his commitment to eliminating the nuclear threat we face from Iran, and we owe the negotiating team our gratitude for their tireless and ongoing work to achieve a meaningful deal.

For decades, Iran has posed a serious, real, and ongoing threat to the U.S. national security interests. Iran's pursuit of its hegemonic ambitions in the Middle East has manifested in the training and arming of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces and terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah. More recently, Iran's increased intervention in the conflicts in Yemen and Iraq pose dangerous and unpredictable regional consequences. Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei continues his horrific and unacceptable calls for the destruction of the State of Israel and has not yet come clean about the dimensions of Iran's nuclear program.

The stakes of these nuclear negotiations clearly could not be higher. Nothing less than the peace and security of the Middle East hangs in the balance.

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, the hard-fought legislation crafted by Senators BOB CORKER, BEN CARDIN, and New Jersey's own Senator MENENDEZ—of which I am a cosponsor—sets up a clear and constructive process for Congress to weigh in on any final deal that touches upon the statutory sanctions Congress has enacted.

With just days remaining before a final deadline, Congress must continue to voice its concerns and exercise its oversight authority. To me, this role is at the bedrock of our role, and Congress must play its role. As my senior Senator, Senator MENENDEZ, has stated: If the interim period is just a short-term pause that preserves for Iran the ability to quickly restart its nuclear program, we will have failed the American people, and we will have our allies and friends to whom we have vowed to protect from Iranian aggressions.

Any final agreement must build in the ability to hold Iran to its commitments and to prevent the absolute nightmare of a nuclear Iran from being realized.

My intent today is to ensure that the administration, which has worked tirelessly to prevent Iran from gaining access to a nuclear weapon, has the best possible chance of success once the final agreement reaches Congress. The framework agreement released on April 2, 2015, leaves gaps, some of which I would like to spend a few moments highlighting today.

First, a robust and comprehensive inspections and verification regime must be the foundation of any deal that is

reached. With Iran's known enrichment facilities at Natanz and Fordow, as well as a heavy water reactor at Arak, under international oversight, the country's leaders would almost certainly look elsewhere to conduct any secret nuclear work.

Iran, of course, denies any desire to build a bomb, but distrust of Iran is based on deep historical precedence. Iran secretly built and operated Natanz and Fordow, and they still haven't come clean about their past military nuclear activities at Parchin. Therefore, ensuring a robust inspections regime is critical for my support of a final deal.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—JCPOA—fact sheet released on April 2 stated that Iran will be required to grant access to the IAEA to investigate suspicious sites or allegations of covert facilities anywhere in the country.

It was hoped that rapid inspections would underwrite the verifiability of the agreement, so if Iran were suspected of violating the agreement, the IAEA would have access to those suspected sites.

According to the latest reports, the IAEA would have the ability to investigate undeclared sites; however, Iran would still be able to dispute those requests in an international forum made up of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China—plus Germany, the EU, and Iran. As we look forward to examining the contours of an inspection regime, we must be wary of any proposal that allows Iran to jam up the IAEA and the dispute resolution process, while removing any evidence of violations that are occurring.

Our negotiators should expect questions from this Chamber: Are there clear loopholes for cheating? Does the administration have high confidence that Iran is not making bomb material at its declared nuclear facilities and that the inspectors are able to detect clandestine facilities?

Our standard will be an arrangement that prevents Iran from dodging or hiding from an inspections regime. Our intelligence, together with enhanced inspections, must be able to ensure that the United States will catch Iran if it takes the risk of pursuing a secret pathway to nuclear weapons and pursuing secret nuclear activities.

Let's not forget that Iran has a dismal record of compliance with its international obligations. Iran has a 30-year record of cheating on the nonproliferation treaty—30 years of cheating. Iran has a 30-year record of cheating, but already the Ayatollah stated that Iran will not allow inspections at military sites today. Khamenei is already backtracking on major commitments agreed to by negotiators on all sides.

This is a serious issue, and in my opinion, it is a clear ploy by Iran to frustrate the negotiations and move the goalpost on these negotiations. Even more so, understanding the history, this reinforces how much we don't know about the military dimension of Iran's past activities. We have no baseline for monitoring Iran moving forward without an understanding of what has been sought in the past.

This is not new. The IAEA has raised these concerns. The April 2 JCPOA says: ''Iran will implement an agreed set of measures to address the IAEA's concerns regarding the past military dimensions of its program.''

Secretary Kerry stated in April that past military dimensions ''will be part of a final agreement. If there's going to be a deal, it will be done.'' I applaud the Secretary's commitment to ensuring that the Iranians' past behavior will play a clear role in the ongoing negotiations.

We know that in this Chamber, my colleagues will examine this closely. We will also examine timelines. In the best-case scenario, for 10 to 15 years, Iran will limit its research and development, limit its domestic enrichment capacity, will not build new enrichment facilities or heavy water reactors, will limit its stockpile of enriched uranium, and will accept enhanced transparency measures. After 15 years, when it is allowed under the terms of the agreement to build its stockpile, it will only be able to do so for peaceful purposes.

But I believe we have to be clear-eyed about the other scenario, which is that after 10 to 15 years—a blip in time for a regime that has been under sanctions for decades—Iran ramps up its research and development efforts on advanced centrifuges, installs these centrifuges, and decides to break out.

Would this deal enhance the intelligence picture of Iran's nuclear capability? That is an important question. If so, would it adequately inform our military options should Iran attempt that breakout?

Are there assumptions being made that in the short term Iran may undergo internal political changes that will make them more favorable to the West? Are we assuming that in making this deal? Relying on such assumptions would be a dangerous gamble. There are no assurances about what the future state of their regime will be.

Finally, Congress must be clear that this deal must not only be credible to Congress, but it must also satisfy Iran's neighbors that have much to gain from an Iran that follows established international norms and far too much to lose if we allow a deal that leaves Iran's neighbors vulnerable to reckless rhetoric and aggression. If other countries believe we have wavered in our resolve to get the strongest possible deal, it will be very difficult to discourage other countries from developing or pursuing a weapon. This could lead to proliferation, and such proliferation would be catastrophic. It would be a catastrophic blow to an already unstable and unpredictable region. This is not an abstract concern; Iran's neighbors are watching these negotiations carefully.

While I sincerely hope that in 50 years future Senators will discuss how the United States did what no other nation was able to do—build a comprehensive sanctions regime that brought Iran to the negotiating table, neutralized the threat of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, and succeeded in putting an end to dangerous calls for the destruction of Israel—success is not certain. Success is not an inevitability.

I will not judge this deal before I see a final agreement. I encourage my colleagues to read the final text, as I am sure they will, before making judgments about the deal. We need to see what is in it.

Under the Joint Plan of Action, we have seen unprecedented inspections of Iran's nuclear infrastructure take hold. Iran's enriched stockpile has shrunk. There are limitations on their enrichment processes. Enrichment has been confined to one facility. This is progress. It is my hope that the negotiators are building upon this progress and working toward a comprehensive final deal. There is much at stake. The bar is set high—as it should be—for a deal, and the questions I have raised are among the many that will be asked and that must be asked as we examine a final deal in the coming weeks.

THANKING SENATE PAGES

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, if I may take one more moment, today, as I understand, or tomorrow is the last day for this group of pages to be here with us.

I have been in this Senate now a little bit longer than this group of pages—about 20 months now. We see these groups of pages, and it is extraordinary to see young people come from all over America. Some of them may go on to government, but most of them will go on to do other things. We see them come into this Chamber and continue a tradition that has been going on for decades. They come and they go. But I want everyone to know that they really do enrich our experience here as Senators, and they help the staff do invaluable work for the operations of the Senate. They may be viewed as the lowest on the totem pole in this institution, but their value and the legacy they are continuing is a noble one.

Today, on the penultimate day of this group of pages, I wish to offer them my gratitude for their service to our country.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

KING V. BURWELL DECISION

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, today's decision in King v. Burwell is judicial activism, plain and simple. For the second time in just a few years, a handful of unelected judges has rewritten the text of ObamaCare in order to impose that failed law upon millions of Americans. The first time, the Court ignored Federal law and magically transformed a statutory ''penalty'' into a ''tax.'' Today, these robed Houdinis have transmogrified a ''Federal exchange'' into an exchange ''established by the State.'' This is lawless.

As Justice Scalia rightfully put it, ''Words no longer have meaning if an exchange that is not established by a State is 'established by the State.'" Justice Scalia continues: ''We should start calling this law SCOTUScare.'' I agree.

If this were a bankruptcy case or any other case of ordinary statutory interpretation, the results would have been 9 to 0, with the Court unanimously reversing the Obama administration's illegal actions. But instead, politics intervened. For nakedly political reasons, the Supreme Court willfully ignored the words that Congress wrote, and instead read into the law their preferred policy outcome. These Justices have joined with President Obama in harming millions of Americans. Unelected judges have once again become legislators—and bad ones at that. They are lawless, and they hide their prevarication in legalese. Our government was designed to be one of laws, not of men, and this transparent distortion is disgraceful.

These Justices are not behaving as umpires calling balls and strikes. They have joined a team, and it is a team that is hurting Americans across this country. ObamaCare is the biggest job killer in America. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs, have been forced into part-time work, have lost their health insurance, have lost their doctors. Millions of Americans have seen their health insurance premiums skyrocket, and it is a direct result of President Obama, of Democrats in the Congress, and of lawless Justices at the U.S. Supreme Court who have joined the team of the Obama administration. If those Justices want to become legislators, I invite them to resign and run for office. That is the appropriate place to write laws—on this floor, not from that courtroom.

I began my career as a law clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, clerking for Chief Justice William Rehnquist, one of the greatest Chief Justices ever to serve our Nation. I have spent the majority of my adult life litigating before the U.S. Supreme Court, both on behalf of the State of Texas and on behalf of private parties. What this Court has become is heartbreaking. If Chief Justice Rehnquist could see this Court today, he would be filled with sorrow at what has become of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The obligation of fidelity to the Constitution and fidelity to law matters. We are not living in a platonic oligarchy with philosopher kings governing us who believe they get to write the laws, interpret the laws, and enforce the laws. That is not the American system of governance.

At the same time, crocodile tears are flowing here in our Nation's Capital over the Supreme Court's decision to illegally rewrite ObamaCare, which has been a disaster since its inception. But one day of faux outrage from the Washington cartel won't fool the millions of courageous conservatives all across our country. They know that far too many career politicians—Democrats and Republicans—in this Nation's Capital are quietly celebrating the Court's decision. If they believe this issue is now settled so they don't have to address it, they are sorely mistaken.

I have made repeal of this disastrous law a top priority since the very first day I entered into this body, and I have made its repeal central to my tenure in office. Republicans all across the country, including my friend the Presiding Officer, campaigned on repealing this law and were elected in a historic tidal wave year—historic majorities in both Chambers of this Congress and in statehouses all across the country. It is now up to us to keep our promises.

I believe 2016 will be a national referendum on repealing ObamaCare. This law is profoundly unpopular. It is unpopular with Republicans, it is unpopular with Independents, it is unpopular with Democrats, it is unpopular with young people, it is unpopular with Hispanics, and it is unpopular with everybody it has hurt, and there are millions being hurt by this law.

The Court adopted and put its stamp of approval on the IRS's blatantly unlawful reading of the statute to make subsidies and taxes applicable to individuals on Federal exchanges when Congress explicitly provided the opposite. Jonathan Gruber famously said Obamacare was built on exploiting the stupidity of the American people. Well, unfortunately the Supreme Court is now complicit in that deception. The Supreme Court has joined President Obama, whose statement ''if you like your health insurance plan, you can keep your health insurance plan'' was rightfully noted as the lie of the year as millions of Americans lost their doctors. Now those rogue Justices are complicit in that lie, in setting aside their oath of office to lie to the American people.

After today's ruling, ObamaCare will now be responsible for imposing illegal taxes on more than 11 million individuals and for burdening hundreds of thousands of businesses with illegal penalties on their workers, killing jobs and further slowing economic growth.

You are a young person right now. You come out of school. You have student loans up to your eyeballs. You are struggling. You don't know if you are going to get a job. The dismal Obama economy means your future is bleak. You have no hope or optimism of actually getting a career, getting skills, moving towards the American dream. Well, today the U.S. Supreme Court has joined arm in arm with President Obama and the IRS in illegally imposing taxes on you—you, that young person starting your career, struggling to make your student loan payments.

Working as a part-time employee making coffee doesn't pay those payments, and yet you are stuck with the individual mandate, which is a tax, so says the Supreme Court and so the Obama Justice Department argued. Right after President Obama told the American people it wasn't a tax, the Obama Justice Department said yes, it is a tax. The Supreme Court agreed. You, the single person, the single mom trying to feed your kids, are paying an illegal tax because of the lies emanating from Washington, DC.

You, the teenage immigrant, as my father was 58 years ago, washing dishes, making 50 cents an hour—he couldn't speak English, but he was filled with hopes and dreams. He was filled with an aspiration for the American dream. Ours is the greatest Nation in the history of the world because people can start with nothing and achieve anything. That is the promise of America.

ObamaCare is strangling that promise. You, the teen, are paying illegal taxes right now today because of President Obama's deception, because of the IRS's lawlessness, and because of the Supreme Court's judicial activism, violating their oaths of office.

I remain fully committed to repealing every single word of ObamaCare. Mark my words. Following the election in 2016, the referendum that we will have, in 2017, this Chamber will return and we will repeal every word of ObamaCare. We will bring back economic growth, we will bring back opportunity, and then we will pass commonsense health reform that makes health insurance personal, portable, and affordable and that keeps government from getting between us and our doctors.

We will recognize that this horrible experiment has failed. When millions of Americans lose their jobs, are forced into part-time jobs, lose their health care, lose their doctors, when millions of Americans see their premiums skyrocket, it is incumbent on Members of this body, it is incumbent on the Federal Government to fix the wreckage they caused, to fix the wreckage the Supreme Court has now embraced lawlessly.

We will repeal ObamaCare, and I will fight with every breath in my body to make sure that happens in 2017.

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.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first I have to say that clearly there are two Americas on how we view health care, that is for sure, after hearing my colleague speak about the ''disaster'' of providing tens of millions of people health insurance, affordable health insurance.

Where I live in Michigan, it is great that families no longer have to put the kids to bed and then say a little prayer: Dear God, don't let the kids get sick. For millions of Americans, the Supreme Court decision has reaffirmed the fact that they will have that peace of mind.

When Chief Justice Roberts, writing for the majority today, said ''Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not destroy them,'' I think he was absolutely right. I commend him and the majority—substantial majority—for understanding that in the competitive, private marketplace that we set up through insurance exchanges, we meant for all Americans to have the opportunity for the tax cuts that allow them to be able to purchase insurance, most people purchasing insurance for under $100 a month, which, contrary to destroying America, I think is making incredible differences in people's lives and creating the opportunity going forward for a competitive marketplace for small business.

Certainly now, I hope from here that we will go forward and stop all of the repeal discussions and get down to the business of improving health care because I think there are still things we need to do. We need to look at how things are working and make sure things are going as well as possible, particularly with small businesses, and I feel we have some work to do. But it would be nice if we could get beyond the unfortunate commentary that has gone on for too long that somehow providing affordable health insurance for Americans is going to be the end of our country.

I certainly think that on something like health care, where nobody controls whether they get sick or mom and dad get sick or the kids get sick or their friends get sick—we are in a situation where our job is to figure out the best way to support people taking responsibility to purchase insurance and make sure that it is affordable, high quality, and low cost. And that is something which we—in the greatest country in the world, with all of the innovators, all of the smart people we have, the wonderful doctors, the wonderful hospital facilities we have, certainly we can do that.

That is, in fact, what is happening through health reform. Right now, 16.4 million Americans who were without insurance before the Affordable Care Act now have the confidence and security of knowing they have health care coverage. Now, 6.4 million Americans, because of the Supreme Court decision, will be able to keep the tax credit. They are not going to see their taxes go up. They are going to be able to keep the tax credits that are going to allow them to make sure that insurance is affordable. That includes over 228,000 people in my home State of Michigan. That is a lot of people.

What is also so incredibly important is that of those people who already have insurance—the majority of Americans—they are having better opportunities to keep it, not be blocked, not be dropped, not have caps.

Some 129 million Americans have preexisting conditions, whether it is diabetes, juvenile diabetes, cancer. Colleagues here have been in situations of announcing various kinds of cancer, diseases, and so on. Some 129 million Americans—including 17 million children—no longer have a risk of being denied coverage because of the insurance company being able to stop them if they have a preexisting condition.

''BEAT THE PRESS'' SOFTBALL GAME

I was with a wonderful group of women from Congress—if I can just divert from that serious moment to say that last night we raised money for breast cancer survivors in a wonderful game between the press and the women Members of Congress. Despite both teams doing a great job—I was very impressed with both sides, but the great news is that the Congresswomen won. We called it ''beat the press.'' It was great. But what was most important last night was seeing all the breast cancer survivors who were there, women who had been able to get that checkup, been able to get that treatment, knowing that going forward, wherever they work—if they move from one job to another, if they change insurance, they are still going to be able to get the coverage they need. They are going to be able to get that mammogram with no copay as preventive health care. They are going to be able to get the care they need. If they need treatment, they are not going to arbitrarily have an insurance company come in and say ''We don't really care what your doctor says about how many sessions you need or radiation treatments. You get 10 and that is it'' or ''You get 5 and that is it'' or whatever the number is.

Mr. President, 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions today can breathe a sigh of relief because they are going to be able to continue to have the health insurance they need. Some 105 million Americans no longer have a lifetime cap on coverage, including mental health and substance abuse coverage, which is so very significant, and 76 million Americans with private coverage are eligible for expanded preventive services, such as mammograms and prostate screening.

We all wish our wonderful friend and colleague Senator KING all the best as he gets his treatments next week. We know he will come back strong, as well as all of our colleagues who have been in similar situations.

This is a big deal. This really is about saving lives. That is what this is all about. It is not a political game. It is not just going back and forth between Republicans and Democrats. This is health. This is medical care. If you get that horrible diagnosis—you are sitting in a doctor's office, and you are told you have cancer or a heart condition or any number of other things—you are going to be able to get medical care.

We also know that consumers have saved $9 billion since 2011 because the law requires insurance companies to spend at least 80 cents on every dollar we give them on medical care. That was not always the case. You can get a rebate if they don't.

So I hope that at this moment in time, we will stop the efforts to repeal health reform. I know it is in the budget that passed. The Republican budget—House and Senate—sets up a process to be able to go back and one more time try to repeal health insurance for tens of millions of Americans. I hope we will not do that. I hope the other side will not do that. We certainly will not do that. I hope that, instead, we will get about the business of making sure it works as well as possible and that we are strengthening the quality measures, the opportunities for competition, and continuing to bring rates down.

We know that if health reform is repealed, it will increase deficits by hundreds of billions of dollars and cause 19 million Americans to lose their health insurance just next year, according to the budget office—19 million people—and 24 million people in the next few years. The Congressional Budget Office says that a repeal would result in a $353 billion increase in the budget.

I congratulate the Supreme Court for common sense today and for understanding what we meant, what legislative intent was all about, and urge that we now decide we are going to work together on health care moving forward.

HIGHWAY BILL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have one more topic I would like to speak about today, and that is the fact that we have a looming deadline. In 36 days, the highway trust fund is going to be at zero—empty. In 36 days as of today, if we do not act together, there will be a shutdown of the highway trust fund, which will have a ripple effect through the entire economy and harm businesses and workers and families in every single one of our States coast to coast. The harm will be felt equally—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, people who don't participate in the political process, people who do. Everybody will suffer if we cannot come together and address the highway trust fund. If this happens, Congress fails in its responsibility.

With all due respect, I have to say that it falls right on the majority because we have been saying and will

continue to say that we want to work together on a bipartisan basis to get this done.

There was a time when it was not a partisan issue, when Republicans were leaders on building our infrastructure. In fact, President Eisenhower said in 1952: ''A network of modern roads is as necessary to our national defense as it is to our national economy and our personal safety.''

What is interesting is that tomorrow is the day when it is 59 years—tomorrow, 59 years ago, Congress approved the Federal Highway Act, connecting all of our country for commerce, for farmers, for families. The rollcall, interestingly, was almost unanimous. Only one Senator voted no. Everybody else voted yes. Ninety-nine voted yes. Then it passed in the House on a voice vote.

Think about all the discussions we are having today. The Federal Highway Act passed on a voice vote in the House. Only one person in the Senate voted no. It was signed by President Eisenhower 3 days later. It was the biggest public works project in our Nation's history. It could not have happened if not for a triumph of bipartisanship. A Republican President working with a Democratic Congress got this done.

When we look at who benefited from taking that dirt road, paving it, and being able to go across our country, it certainly was colleagues in the West, colleagues in the South. It wasn't just the cities. In fact, they probably had roads already. It was everybody else, as we moved across the country. So this should not be regional. It should not be partisan. It doesn't make any sense for us not to come together and get this done.

Behind the teamwork at the time, after they worked together to pass this, construction began on a system of 40,000 miles of highways, enough to circle the globe 1½ times. That is what was done when people worked together to build the strong infrastructure of the 20th century.

It didn't take long before the economic impact was felt. By the late 1950s, our interstate highways were responsible for 31 percent of the annual growth of the economy. Over 30 percent of the growth in the economy came from that one act, developing the infrastructure to move goods and services and people across our country.

The people of this country were getting to their destinations faster, more safely than ever before. Every rural community was flourishing just as our urban communities had been.

Thanks to President Eisenhower's leadership and a Democratic-controlled Congress, our roads in the mid-21st century were the envy of the world. Other nations noticed. Those nations aspired to be like us, to be like America in a global economy.

They now are making huge investments in their infrastructure, from China, at 9 percent of their GDP—four times more than we are—to Brazil.

I have said before that when I was in China a couple of years ago, they rolled out 20 new international airports—20 international airports. That didn't count anything else they were doing.

In Brazil they rolled out for us—when I was there with the Secretary of Agriculture—their new rail system and road system that was going to get agricultural commodities to the ports and move people around their country so they could move forward as a global, economic power.

Today our European competitors spend twice as much as we do, and now it is time for America to step forward because, unfortunately, we are now playing catchup. The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report for 2014 and 2015 ranks America 16th in the world in the quality of our roads. America is one spot behind Luxembourg and just one spot ahead of Croatia, as I said before. Yay, we are beating Croatia. It is an embarrassment, and it is not what our people need or our businesses need or what our farmers need or what our workers need.

In 2002, that same report had us at No. 5—the fifth best transportation system. Now we are 16th, and the American Society of Civil Engineers has given America a D. And how many of us would be satisfied if our children came home from school with a D? I know I wouldn't be.

It also said that 32 percent of America's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition. We know what has happened when bridges have fallen. We know what happens. I have seen it in Michigan and heard the stories of people driving under overpasses and cement falls down on the car. People's lives are threatened. People's lives have been taken.

Driving on bad roads costs motorists $109 billion in road repairs a year. I talked to one colleague who told me that he had to replace all four tires on his car when he went through one pothole not long ago, and that in the last year he had bought seven new tires for his car, which is way more than he would have been paying if we had created a way to fund our roads on a long-term basis that made sense.

It is not right for Congress to neglect our responsibility to maintain and, in fact, strengthen our infrastructure. In fact, we, as individuals and business people driving on roads, driving across bridges, and moving across our country, are paying for the fact that we have not come together with a long-term plan. We cannot expect our workers and companies to compete in the 21st century global marketplace if we are forced to use 20th century roads and bridges.

So I would say, in conclusion, that we have 36 days left to act. Now, when we want to, we can act pretty quickly.

I commend colleagues from the EPW Committee who have come forward with a 6-year bill. We have in front of us a policy passed by the committee.

I congratulate Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER for coming forward with a proposal that will increase the funding over time, and I believe and hope we will do it in an even more robust way. They put forth policies that will, in the long term, create the economic stability for our businesses and the jobs for our workers and our families that they need. The DRIVE Act, as we call it, is an important step forward. I commend the chairman of the Finance Committee for holding hearings on how we finance that, because that is our responsibility.

I say, again, we have enough time to get this done because President Eisenhower, over 50 years ago tomorrow, with a Democratic Congress, got it done. Thirty-six days is enough time for us to meet the expectations of the American people on this issue.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have been interested in how the Democrats are constantly pushing to get moneys for the Federal highway system. All of us are. Every one of us in this body wants to do everything we can for the highway system. However, they are talking in such big terms that the only way you could possibly reach those kinds of moneys would be with further tax increases.

Now, my experience here is that when our friends on the other side call for tax increases, it is so they can spend. Frankly, I would tell you, if we raised the amount of money they are asking for in tax increases, I could tell you all of the projects that are going to be done, and many of them are not the crucial projects in this country.

All I can say is that we are going to try to find the moneys, but we don't want to raise taxes, and we certainly don't want to raise the gas tax at this time. We will find enough moneys to do, hopefully, a multiyear approach toward the highway plan. I am dedicated to try to find that way.

The other committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, is, I believe, the committee that has passed a bill calling for a 6-year highway program. I hope that it would meet my highest goal, if we could do that, but I don't think we would be able to do that under the current monetary and economic systems that we have today.

But, nevertheless, I am going to do my best to try to help to get the highway bill through and to do it the right way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator HATCH be recognized following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN LEVIN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today I wish to honor someone I have had the

privilege of calling a friend for many years and who is retiring after serving the State of Delaware for the past 6 years, Alan Levin. Alan and I both had our first tours of duty in Washington working for the same Republican Senator. I was an intern for Senator William Roth in the early 1980s and Alan was his counsel in the mid-1980s. Alan, a well-known and respected statewide leader in Delaware's Republican Party, has, since 2009, served as the director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, where he has worked every day to attract businesses to Delaware and to help them create good jobs in our communities.

Alan took over at a time when communities throughout Delaware were hemorrhaging jobs and feeling the very worst effects of the great recession. Today Delaware's unemployment rate sits a full point below the national average at 4.5 percent, in part thanks to the great effort of Alan Levin's.

During his tenure, Alan exemplified what it means to be a public servant. It didn't matter to Alan if someone came to him who was thinking of starting a small business that would employ 4 people or if it was a company thinking of moving to Delaware and bringing 400 jobs. No matter what, if it was going to help Delaware, Alan was ready to meet with anyone and show them why there was no better place than the First State, our home State of Delaware, to run a business.

Of course, Alan's service to our State began well before 2009. Long a leader in the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce for more than two decades, Alan ran Happy Harry's Pharmacy, a family business that he grew over decades of discipline and capable leadership, ultimately expanding it to 76 stores in our region. That success is an important part of who Alan is, because to really know him is to know that his job at the Delaware Economic Development Office was not one he needed; it was one he chose.

Alan could have continued and built his success in the business world—anyone could tell you that—but he made a decision at that key point in his life to strive for something else, something more to make his home State a better place. He recognized his considerable skills, talents, and knowledge and decided to use them to help families and businesses across our State succeed. That is a profound thing. In a world where there are far too many people who shun public life and public service for good reason, Alan stepped up to the plate when Delaware needed him most.

Now, fortunately for all of us, Alan isn't going far. We will still get to see him in southern Delaware, where he will be working with SoDel Concepts in their successful restaurants. It is hopeful that he will get a chance to trade in his business suit for flip-flops and a beach chair from time to time. I just wanted to take this moment on the floor to thank Alan and to thank especially his wife Ellen and his wonderful sons, Andrew, Daniel, Jason, and Jess, for letting us have Alan in public service for so many years where he has made such a difference. It is my hope he will get to enjoy his family, his grandchildren, and the entire Delaware community, which is so grateful to Alan for his public service.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Utah.

WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SENATE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the progress of the Senate under the new Republican leadership. In the first 6 months of this Congress, we have passed bipartisan, commonsense legislation that has delivered meaningful results to the American people.

As we work to return the Senate to regular order—and that has not been an easy thing—we are rebuilding this institution's reputation as the world's greatest deliberative body, something that it has not been over the last number of years. To that end, we have renewed our commitment to the open amendment process and the committee system, which give all Members—from the most seasoned chairman to the freshman—a hand in drafting and improving legislation.

The progress we have made is remarkable, especially considering the difficult situation we inherited. At the end of the 113th Congress, partisan grandstanding and festering dysfunction had tarnished this body's reputation. This Senate was beset by gridlock and weak leadership more focused on political messaging than constructive legislation. At the end of the 2014, Congress had a historically low approval rating of only 9 percent and, in many respects, the way the Congress was being run, we deserved it. Americans had every reason to disapprove of what was going on. These persistent low approval ratings reflected the American people's frustration with their Federal Government and the direction of our country under the failed policies and leadership of the President and his party.

Under our new leadership, we are working to regain the trust of the American people. Already, the Senate has taken up and passed nearly 40 pieces of bipartisan legislation, and our extensive efforts to restore confidence in the legislative branch are beginning to bear fruit. Consider our legislative accomplishments thus far.

At the beginning of this Congress, Republicans and Democrats came together to pass the Hoeven-Manchin bill to authorize the unreasonably delayed Keystone XL Pipeline.

We also passed my Amy and Vicky act, a bill I authored to create an effective, balanced restitution process for victims of child pornography. Others deserve lots of credit on that bill.

In a bipartisan manner, Republican leaders cooperated with Democrats to repeal and replace Medicare's sustainable growth rate. Instead of resorting to patch after patch, year after year—that is what we had been doing here for so long; that is really a tremendous achievement—we came together to work out a balanced package that both protects seniors and includes important cost controls. It demonstrated the scope of what Congress can do when Members work together, and it represented an important step forward in reforming our Nation's entitlement programs. With regard to that, we paired it with the CHIP bill, which was the Hatch-Kennedy bill for young children who were left out of the health care system, and that passed too.

We built on this positive momentum when the Senate passed the Cornyn-Klobuchar human trafficking bill—a very important bill. With this legislation, Congress established a special fund providing victims of human trafficking the resources they need to repair their shattered lives.

This bill suffered a number of hiccups along the way. Yet ultimately we were able to come together in a collaborative fashion to overcome our differences.

We again bridged the partisan divide when we passed the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act—a monumental piece of legislation. This legislation ensures Congress's right to oversee any agreement the President reaches with Iranian leaders and reasserts the Senate's valuable role in approving international treaties. Despite our divergent opinions on the Obama administration's negotiation efforts, we were able to devise a compromise that earned the support of nearly every Senator.

These are not small achievements. It is amazing we have been able to do so many in these first 6 months. Just last week, we worked together, yet again, in a bipartisan fashion to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, reauthorizing important defense programs critical to our national security—a complex and very difficult bill to handle. And no less than our wonderful Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, handled that matter on the floor, along with the help of a lot of others.

In passing this legislation, our new majority did not run roughshod over the minority. Rather, we collaborated with our colleagues in the minority to draft legislation agreeable to both sides.

Our bipartisan work hasn't been limited to this Chamber. We have also worked closely with the White House to pass trade legislation critical to our country's economic future. In fact, just a short while ago, the President called me and thanked me. His top Chief of Staff Denis McDonough called me yesterday and thanked me—something that, frankly, I was very grateful for.

In fact, yesterday's passage of trade promotion authority might be the

strongest evidence to date that the Senate is back to work on behalf of the American people. This bipartisan piece of legislation is one of the President's highest trade priorities because it supports U.S. job growth, boosts American exports, enhances our ability to negotiate trade agreements, and makes our goods and services more competitive globally. TPA will give the United States viable pathways to enter into critical trade agreements with our international partners to level the playing field for American exporters, creating and sustaining more and better paying American jobs.

Beyond the content of our legislation, the Senate's return to regular order and an open amendment process is remarkable. At times, it has been difficult to make progress in restoring the Senate as an institution, and the consideration of complex legislation can be a slow and arduous process. Nonetheless, this body has been deliberate and thoughtful in our consideration of legislation. Often, these bills have been considered for several weeks and occupied many hours of valuable floor time. These bills have required dozens of amendments to be considered before they were ultimately put before the Senate for a vote on final passage. Though this process is difficult and often laborious, it is the way things should be done.

I have had friends on the other side of the floor come to me and say: This is wonderful. We are able to have amendments again. We are able to do the work of the Senate again. We feel good about it, and they feel good about doing the bipartisan work that we have done.

The Presiding Officer did an awful lot of good bringing the Hoeven bill through, and we can name so many others. There are great people on the other side who have cooperated. With regard to that, I think of Senator WYDEN, who has worked very hard and very closely with me on a number of bills but especially the trade promotion authority bill, which is the key bill to enable this administration to enter into good agreements with foreign countries that are important to us. Without that bill, we wouldn't have these agreements. We may still not have them, unless they are done right, but at least we can say we have given the administration the opportunity to do it right.

Now, in spite of our successes so far in this Congress, there are still many who oppose and criticize our efforts to restore the Senate to its proper function. The minority leader might be foremost among these detractors. I wish to take just a moment to respond to some of his sharp criticisms. In recent remarks, the Democratic leader has willfully ignored the significant achievements of the current Congress, even arguing the Republican-led Senate has done nothing to help the American people. The minority leader's accusation is patently false. He lobs these criticisms to distract the American people from his failed leadership in the last Congress.

I happen to like the minority leader. He is my friend. I care for him. But there is no excuse for that kind of language on the floor of the Senate. I have to say he has cooperated and helped do some of these bills. He ought to be taking credit for it rather than lobbing jabs from across the aisle.

Contrary to the claims of the minority leader, the current Republican leadership has been remarkably successful at doing exactly what Leader MCCONNELL promised we would do: pass legislation that improves the economy, makes it easier for Americans to get jobs, and helps restore Americans' confidence in their country and government. Importantly, the majority leader has kept his promise of restoring the proper role of the Senate by enhancing deliberation on legislation through an open and robust committee and floor amendment process.

To appreciate fully the success of the new Congress, we need only to review the failures of the past. As we all remember too well, under the tight-fisted control of the Democratic leader, the Senate, in all of 2014, was only allowed to take a total of 17 rollcall votes on amendments—17 rollcall votes on amendments in an entire year. Some of the Democratic Senators who were defeated had never brought up an amendment on the floor of the Senate. They didn't have that privilege. They didn't have that remarkable experience.

The Democratic leader shut down the amendment process by abusing procedural mechanisms and dismantled the rights of the minority in this Chamber. This dysfunction lies in stark contrast to the way Leader MCCONNELL is leading the Senate today. Under the new majority leader, we have made progress that is tangible, even measurable. Just look at the facts: In the 6 months of 2015, the Senate has taken over 130 rollcall votes on amendments.

In other words, the Senate has taken more than seven times as many rollcall votes on amendments in the first 6 months of this year than the current majority leader allowed in all of last year. It is worth noting that a majority of the rollcall votes taken this year have been on amendments introduced by Democrats. A majority of the rollcall votes taken this year have been on amendments by our friends on the other side. They haven't been blocked. This is powerful evidence that the Republican-led Senate is committed to working in a manner respectful of the minority's voice.

Additionally, we have considered and agreed to 183 amendments this year. That means we have agreed to nearly four times as many amendments in the first 6 months of this year than we did in the first 6 months of the last Congress. I am pleased the Senate has largely returned to operating under regular order with increased deliberation and an open and robust floor consideration process. The bottom line is that this increased transparency and deliberation has greatly benefited the work of Senators on both sides of the aisle.

That said, I think we can all agree the Senate has a lot more work to do. I am hopeful we can capitalize on our recent success by continuing to tackle difficult issues, such as sustaining the highway trust fund, working toward comprehensive tax reform, and improving our Nation's cyber security. These are important bills and we have to work on them. As we work together to find solutions to these problems, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to practice the principle of mutual restraint.

Senator Mike Mansfield, the longtime Democratic Senate majority leader, and a wonderful man whom I knew, counseled that the remedy to partisan gridlock in the Senate ''lies not in the seeking of shortcuts, not in the cracking of nonexistent whips, not in wheeling and dealing, but in an honest facing of the situation and a resolution of it by the Senate itself, by accommodation, by respect for one another, [and] by mutual restraint.''

Now, both parties must make certain sacrifices in order for the Senate to function. The majority leadership must generally refrain from bringing divisive and partisan messaging bills before the Senate for consideration and should seek to gather bipartisan support through a consensus. Mutual restraint also requires in most cases the majority leadership to allow legislation to be thoroughly vetted by the committee of jurisdiction and to allow for an open amendment process, which provides an opportunity for all Senators to contribute to the Chamber's work.

I remember how the ObamaCare bill was formulated. It was formulated not in the committee of jurisdiction, where we had all those people with all that experience; it was done with the White House, in a small room with just a few Senators who decided this monumental bill—passed only with Democratic support—that we are now all subject to. That bill has been anything but a success. Now, I have to say, all Senators should be able to contribute to the Chamber's work.

This duty is not incumbent upon the majority alone. The minority also has to practice restraint, including resisting impulses to filibuster routine unanimous consent requests and insisting on poison pill amendments. The minority in the Senate has powerful rights that can be used to grind the work of the Senate to a halt, but the minority should not abuse those rights. At times, it can be appropriate for the minority to utilize all of the procedural mechanisms at their disposal to legitimately and judiciously disagree with a serious policy being considered by the Senate. However, when the minority deliberately frustrates the operation of the Senate for partisan gain, it is an

offense to the institution—and I say that with regard to both sides.

My friend the majority leader has been committed to conducting the Senate's consideration of legislation in a deliberate manner, with prudence and restraint. He has renewed and enhanced deliberation and open consideration of serious policy proposals. We have not made a point of pushing Republican messaging bills, but rather we have worked hard to find broad bipartisan consensus. Although it has not been easy by any means, I feel confident the American people are beginning to regain confidence in the legislative branch as it is being led today under Republican leadership.

We still have a long way to go before we can restore the full confidence and trust of the American people—at least that is my viewpoint—but we are really once again moving the country in the right direction. This Senate is a dramatic improvement from the way business has been conducted over the past several years. We are not focused on scoring cheap political points but are deliberating serious policy and legislation aimed at meaningful reform.

The Senate, under Republican leadership, has passed bipartisan legislation that will improve the lives of all Americans. We are doing the right kind of work, and we are doing it the right way. We are not focused on political gimmicks and pageantry; rather, we are interested in real, substantive policy aimed at strengthening the Nation, our economy, and our national security. We have made significant progress, and we continue to work together to restore our reputation as the world's greatest deliberative body.

In the Finance Committee alone, as of yesterday we have passed 36 bipartisan bills out of that committee, which wasn't really allowed to function during the last number of years. It was so bad that Senator Coburn left it. He said we are not getting anything done. Frankly, we weren't. A lot of that was because of the way the Senate was being led at that particular time.

I am pleased to say I think the Finance Committee is restoring itself as the greatest deliberative committee on Capitol Hill, certainly in the Senate.

In that regard, it has been a privilege to work with PAUL RYAN over in the House. In all of our meetings, there has never been any real push to be partisan. It is to get the job done, to do it the best way we possibly can, to involve our brethren and sisters on the other side, and to make sure our side does what really ought to be done in our respective bodies.

We are going to have tie-ups in the future, I know, but it was getting so it was in every way. And I suspect there were sincere motives in doing that, in trying to protect the then-majority's side before this year. I understand that. But it went way too far, and it was not the way to run the Senate.

We all know Senator MCCONNELL is a strong, tough, intelligent, complete Senator and certainly majority leader. That can irritate some people who don't look at the real facts and don't look at what he really stands for and what he is really trying to do. But I have found him to be fair. I have found him to be fair and deliberate and somebody you can work with as long as you are working in good faith.

I would like to see both of our leaders work in good faith so we can do things for our country first and quit worrying so much about who is going to run the Senate for the next couple of years or who is going to win or who is going to get the big headline. Let's worry about running the country in the proper way. To do that, it takes both sides, not just one side, and it takes a deliberative process that elevates the Senate again to the greatest deliberative body in the world. We can do it.

I caution both leaders to do everything in their power to see that we do work together as much as we can. When we fight, let's have real good fights, but let's do it over substantive things, not just deliberated procedural matters.

But the fact is that we have done quite a bit in these first 6 months. The leader has done a great job in getting us there, and we have had a lot of help from our friends on the other side. I want to keep that system going so we can do even better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant minority leader.

KING V. BURWELL DECISION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning the Supreme Court of the United States came down with its decision in King v. Burwell. I think it will probably be a decision that is remembered for a long time, certainly by Members of Congress. We were watching carefully, closely, wondering what the Supreme Court was going to say about the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as ObamaCare. We passed it 5 years ago, and it was about the issue of health insurance—how many Americans who were uninsured would be insured under the Affordable Care Act and how much it would help health insurance cost.

Controversial, as the Senator from Utah just noted—it was passed on a partisan roll call. There was an effort to write a bipartisan bill, and it failed. There was no sentiment shared by both sides of the aisle to create the Affordable Care Act or anything like it.

How important is this decision, King v. Burwell, a decision which basically sustained the Affordable Care Act and said that the tax credits—which are part of the act—given to families in lower income situations were legal and constitutional? I think it is one of the most important decisions because I think health insurance is one of the most important things in our lives.

If you have ever been in the position as a father with a sick child, a seriously ill child without health insurance, you will never forget it. I know. I have been there. As a law student, my wife and I got married and had a little baby. She had some challenges, and we had no health insurance. Every time we took her to the hospital, every time we saw a doctor, I wondered if she was getting the best that she could get because we didn't have health insurance. It meant waiting in big waiting rooms with a lot of other people without health insurance and hoping that whoever walked through that door, that doctor would be just what my daughter needed. I will never forget it. When it comes to a time when people are debating about health insurance and how important it is, it sure is important to me. It was even when I didn't have it, as I realized how insecure and uncertain I was.

About 5 years ago, I was down in southern Illinois, Marion, IL, which is a great little town. I stayed there in deep southern Illinois at a local motel, and in the morning I would go up and go in. They had a little breakfast buffet there. There was a sweet lady named Judy. She was always there; ''Senator, what can I do for you?'' and all that. She couldn't have been nicer. I got to know Judy over the times we stayed there, and we talked about her life.

Judy was 60 years old. She was working part time in this motel—kind of in the world of hospitality—and she took care of guests when they went to the breakfast buffet in the morning. We talked about her life. She had grown up in southern Illinois. She had worked all the way through her life, job after job after job. I knew she was a hard-working lady and a good person.

One day she said to me: Senator, I have heard about this debate in Washington about the Affordable Care Act, and I am scared.

I said: Why?

She said: I don't think I can afford it, and they won't let me pick my own doctor.

I said: Well, Judy, I don't want to get personal, but I need to ask you a few questions. Do you have health insurance?

No. No, Senator. I have never had health insurance in my life. I have never had a job that offered health insurance.

She was 60 years old.

I said: Now I am going to get real personal. Can you give me an idea how much money you make? If you want to, can you tell me?

Sure.

She told me.

I said: Judy, when it is all over, you are going to be covered by Medicaid. You won't be paying for this. For the first time in your life, you are going to have health insurance. You are going to be able to go to the hospital and not be a charity case.

She said: It won't cost me?

No. Your income is so low that you qualify for this tax credit and this

treatment under Medicaid. You don't have to pay out of pocket.

The next time I went back there after the law passed and we knew she had Medicaid coverage, Judy didn't look the same. She was obviously sick.

I said: What is wrong?

She said: Well, I just got diagnosed with diabetes.

I said: Well, at least you have Medicaid.

She said: I sure do. And I have a doctor. I like him, and he is helping me. And I have a hospital that I can go to if I need to.

There she was, for the first time in her life at the age of 60, with diabetes, and with health insurance. From my point of view, that is what this decision and this debate is all about.

What we set out to do with the passage of the Affordable Care Act was to make sure health insurance was there for that young couple getting started with a baby who otherwise wouldn't have had health insurance or that 60-year-old woman who was working a job that didn't provide health insurance benefits who was facing diabetes.

Well, it has helped a lot of people. When we started the debate on the Affordable Care Act, there were 50 million Americans—out of over 320 million, 50 million—who had no health insurance. Because of this law, the Affordable Care Act, almost one-third of them—16 million—now have health insurance. I think that is a good thing. Most Americans would celebrate that we have reduced the rolls of the uninsured by one-third. It means they have peace of mind having coverage.

Roy Romanowski, in Chicago—I sat next to Roy at a community health clinic in a neighborhood. I go to those clinics all the time because I think they are one of the best places on Earth to meet some great medical professionals who are doing a wonderful service for a lot of people who live in a neighborhood and who wouldn't have a place to go.

Roy Romanowski, a big, barrel-chested Polish guy from Chicago, is a musician. He plays a guitar. He never had a solid 40-hour-a-week job in his life and never had health insurance. He has it now. The Affordable Care Act gave Roy health insurance coverage for the first time—health insurance coverage he can afford.

That is what the decision in this court case was about today—whether people like Roy and Judy would have health insurance. And it does something else: It moves us along the path we want to be on—and not only that more and more people have health insurance. Here is good news for everybody: The rate of growth in health care costs is going down. Oh, it is not a dramatic plunge. We didn't expect it to be. But even as it starts to level off a little bit, it has a dramatic impact. It means even if you don't have your health insurance plan through the Affordable Care Act, if you have it through your employer, the health insurance premiums your employer faces are less than they would have been. So it is starting to flatten out this growth and the cost of health care.

What about Medicare? Medicare is important for over 40 million Americans. Here is the great news on Medicare—two things. No. 1, because the overall cost of health care is coming down just a little, in 5 years, the projected solvency of Medicare has been—they have added 13 years to it, 13 more years of solvency for a program critically important to seniors and disabled people. So Medicare has benefited from it as well.

There is a second part. If you are under Medicare and you have prescription Part D, which covers your prescriptions under Medicare, we closed the doughnut hole. The doughnut hole used to be that point in the cost of your prescription drugs when Medicare no longer paid for it and you had to pay for it out of pocket. That was a crazy idea in the law, and it cost seniors thousands of dollars. And then, of course, after they paid out of pocket, Medicare came in to cover the additional expenses. We got rid of that craziness. We eliminated that doughnut hole. So for seniors wanting to take the medicines the doctor has prescribed so they can feel good, be strong, be independent, stay on their own, this Affordable Care Act helped them pay. In Illinois, it was about $1,000 per Medicare recipient per year in prescription drug costs taken care of by the Affordable Care Act.

Let me tell you a couple other things this law did and does. Do you have any children in your family who are going to college? Are you worried about when they graduate from college, whether they have a job and health insurance? I was. My wife and I were worried about our daughter.

I remember calling her.

Jennifer, you just got out of school. Do you have health insurance?

Dad, I don't need it. I am healthy as can be.

That is not what a father wants to hear.

The Affordable Care Act says that your son or daughter can stay under your family plan until they reach the age of 26. I think that is a good thing. As a parent who had a college grad looking for a job, I had the peace of mind of knowing she was under the family health insurance plan.

So the people who want to repeal the Affordable Care Act—do they really want to repeal that provision?

And here is another one that is important. How many of us can say with certainty that in our homes, in our households, there isn't someone with a preexisting condition, someone who—perhaps a child—has had diabetes, a spouse who has had good luck in beating breast cancer or prostate cancer? Someone there is a history of mental illness. In the old days before the Affordable Care Act, what I just described to you were grounds for denying health insurance coverage or charging through the roof. Well, that was changed by the Affordable Care Act. Preexisting conditions no longer disqualify you from health insurance in America.

The President said this morning, after the Supreme Court decision: We will have to explain to our grandkids there was a time when you couldn't get health insurance if you were sick.

Thank goodness that time has passed and the Affordable Care Act protects people. Overall, this act in the last 5 years has made real progress for America. For 16 million Americans, it has given many of them health insurance for the first time in their lives, health insurance they can afford and a tax credit to help them pay for it that was protected today by this Supreme Court decision.

In all of the time since the Affordable Care Act has been the law, we have heard from the other party that they want to repeal it. But in that same period of time, we have never ever heard what they would replace it with. They don't have a better idea. Here is what I hope we will do. I hope we will put behind us this whole effort of let's file another lawsuit, let's vote another time to abolish the Affordable Care Act. I hope instead that there will be a constructive dialogue between Democrats and Republicans to make the Affordable Care Act better.

I voted for it and am proud of it. It is one of the most important votes I ever cast in Congress. But it is not perfect. I tell my town meetings in Illinois that the only perfect law was brought down the side of a mountain by Senator Moses on clay tablets. Ever since then, we have done our best to write laws but know that we have to be ready to improve them and to react to changing circumstances.

We should do the same with the Affordable Care Act. I think there are things we can do to make it stronger, and on a bipartisan basis we should. Until this moment in time of this Supreme Court decision, it has been politically impossible to have that conversation.

The Restaurant Association came to see me. They are worried. They said: Wait a minute. We have a lot of part-time employees and a lot of them don't want health insurance. Their spouses have health insurance. We are looking at the law. We want some clarity here about what our obligation will be under the Affordable Care Act.

They deserve that clarity. I will tell you as I stand here today, I am willing to sit down with any Republican Senator and work out changes and provisions in the law to make sure we treat these employees fairly and we give them coverage and do it in a fashion that is fair to their employer as well as individual employees. These are things we can and should do.

For the longest time, there were people who opposed Social Security—going way back in time 70 or 80 years when it

was created. They said that it will never last; it will never stay. Eventually, public sentiment changed and people realized Social Security was critically important for America.

The same thing was true for Medicare. There were those who said: Socialized medicine, you have to get rid of it. Now, 60 years later, 50 years later, they understand it is part of America. For millions of Americans, it is critically important. Medicaid, the same thing.

I hope today will be that turning point on the Affordable Care Act, where we decide on a bipartisan basis that this is part of our future, providing health insurance for uninsured Americans, doing it in a fair way, and particularly for those in lower income situations.

This was a historic decision, King v. Burwell, at the Supreme Court—6 to 3. A decisive majority opinion said the Affordable Care Act is legal and constitutional and should move forward. I hope that message makes it across the street over to the Halls of Congress.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS V. INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES PROJECT, INC.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning, the Supreme Court also announced its decision in Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.

In a major victory for the millions of Americans who rely on the protections of the Fair Housing Act to challenge unfair, discriminatory housing practices, the Court held that disparate impact claims are permissible under the law.

The Fair Housing Act was a landmark civil rights bill passed in 1968 to combat widespread housing discrimination. Under the disparate impact doctrine, the law allows plaintiffs to challenge housing policies that have a ''disproportionally adverse effect on minorities,'' without proving discriminatory intent.

Housing discrimination is rarely as overt today as it was in the 1960s, and disparate impact claims thus play an important role in preventing housing segregation. Federal appeals courts across the country have long held that these types of claims are permissible and constitutional. Today, the Supreme Court rightfully affirmed this principle.

As Justice Kennedy acknowledged in the opinion, the Fair Housing Act plays a ''continuing role in moving the Nation toward a more integrated society.''

This past week has reminded us that we have much to accomplish in creating a more just and equal society. On issues ranging from voting rights to mass incarceration, there are fundamental disparities that we must address.

Thankfully, the Court's ruling today ensures that the full protections of the Fair Housing Act remain intact. We must continue to work to prevent discrimination in housing and give all American families access to safe, affordable homes in inclusive, prosperous communities.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING MAJOR KENNETH M. SLYE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a very dear friend of mine who has sadly passed away. MAJ Ken Slye, retired from both the U.S. Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, died on June 24, 2015, at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center in Louisville. He was 81 years old.

Ken was a retired master Army aviator who did two combat tours in Vietnam, flying both Chinook and Huey helicopters. After his retirement from the Army, Ken was very active in the local Louisville military community as well as that of Fort Knox. He was a past chairman of the Louisville Armed Forces Committee; a four-times past president of the Louisville Chapter, Military Officers Association of America; a member of VFW 1170 Middletown; of the DAV; and of the American Legion G.I. Joe Post 244 in Jeffersontown.

Ken served on the Veteran Experience Board at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center, and in fact he and fellow veteran Carl Kaelin were instrumental in getting the medical center named after Kentucky's own World War I-era vet, Robley Rex. Ken was the recipient of the 2015 Louisville Armed Forces Patriot Award just this past May.

Ken was also heavily involved with professional tennis as an international chair umpire, and he served in the chair in matches all over the United States as well as the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Japan, France, Argentina, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Jamaica. He began his officiating career in 1974 and was a graduate of the first professional tennis officials' school, in 1976 in Dallas. He chaired matches at the U.S. Open, Wimbledon, the French Open, and the Davis Cup.

Ken officiated in 16 matches with legendary player John McEnroe. Ken was the only Kentuckian to chair the final of a Grand Slam Tennis Tournament. He was the chair umpire for the classic 1980 U.S. Open Men's Singles Final between McEnroe and Bjorn Borg, watched on television by 20 million fans and 22,000 in the stands at Flushing Meadow. He was the chair umpire at the 1987 Wimbledon semi-final match between Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl. Other tennis legends Ken encountered during his career were Arthur Ashe, Stan Smith, Ilie Nastase, and Jimmy Connors.

Born in Boston and raised in Wellesley, MA, Ken moved to Louisville because it was the hometown of his wife, Linda. He sang bass with the Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus for 4 years and served as its manager for 6 years. He served for 20 years with the Secretary of Defense's staff on top of his heroic service with the Army.

Ken is survived by his wife, Linda, as well as his son Scott Slye and daughter Susan Fabiano; his granddaughters Stacey Brandon and Audrey Ribley; his six great-grandchildren, Ashlynn, Will, Addison, Cooper, Scott, and Brystal; and Linda's son and daughter Jeff Furnish and Meg Furnish.

MAJ Ken Slye bravely served his country in uniform during a time of war, and he served his fellow veterans when he returned home. He will be greatly missed, not only by the military community throughout Kentucky but also by his many friends who knew and loved him.

I am proud to count myself among that group of friends. I relied on Ken's advice and friendship. I want to extend my deepest condolences to his family in their time of loss. The Commonwealth of Kentucky joins them in mourning this heroic man, patriot, and soldier.

REMEMBERING THOMAS BLAKE RATLIFF

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a very dear friend of mine and a great Kentuckian who has sadly passed away. Thomas Blake Ratliff of Pikeville, a Navy veteran, died on April 20, 2015. He was 88 years old.

Born on May 27, 1926, Tom attended elementary, junior high, and high school at the Pikeville College Academy and graduated in 1944. Upon graduation he joined the Navy and served in the Pacific theater during World War II until being honorably discharged in 1946.

After his naval service, Tom attended Pikeville College and the University of Kentucky, where he received a bachelor of laws in 1951 and a juris doctorate in 1970. Tom and his wife Myrtle returned home to Pikeville after Tom graduated law school, and he practiced law and also became involved in the coal business. Tom also had business interests in hotels, restaurants, the Reynold's Body Company and in properties in Kentucky and Florida.

Tom was also active in civic affairs and public service. A passionate supporter of the Republican Party, he served in various capacities for the local, State, and national GOP. He was a great supporter of mine and I remember well his enthusiasm and dedication

over the years. He was elected as the Commonwealth attorney for the 35th Judicial Circuit and served in that post from 1964 to 1970. He was also the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 1967.

In addition to his work and positions in politics, Tom gave generously of his time to many worthy causes, including service as the director of the Pikeville Methodist Hospital and as a trustee of Pikeville College. He was the president of the Pikeville Rotary Club and volunteered his time with the Coal Operators Association and the Boy Scouts.

Tom was a Christian who attended Pikeville United Methodist Church. He also served on the church's administrative board. His hobbies included reading, traveling, boating, and being physically active. He loved to travel and had visited all the continents.

Tom is survived by his wife, Myrtle; the two were married on August 21, 1949. He is also survived by his daughters Susan G. Tillotson and Jan E. Sharpe; his sons Kevin N. Ratliff and Chris Ratliff; his grandchildren Elizabeth J. Spraggs, Juliet Kamper, Jonathan K. Wright, Thomas N. Ratliff, Daniel C. Ratliff, and Jordan B. Ratliff; his great-grandchild, Tiara Wright; his sister, Charlene R. Easton; and his brother, Roger E. J. Ratliff.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to Myrtle and to the family in this time of loss. The Commonwealth of Kentucky joins them in mourning this hero and public servant. Tom Ratliff bravely served his country in uniform during World War II, and served his fellow Kentuckians in public office. He was a hero and a patriot who I was proud to know and to call a friend. He will be greatly missed, not only by his family but by his many friends who knew and loved him.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MIRACLE FLIGHTS FOR KIDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I recognize the 30th anniversary of Miracle Flights for Kids.

Since its founding in southern Nevada in 1985, Miracle Flights for Kids has been providing airline tickets for sick children in low-income families. These flights are truly miracles that allow children to receive the specialized medical care they need and otherwise would not have access to due to distance and travel costs. In the beginning, Miracle Flights for Kids was a small organization that served a handful of local children, but today the organization coordinates hundreds of flights a month, including a record 976 flights in April 2015. To date, Miracle Flights for Kids has coordinated more than 92,000 flights resulting in 50 million miles of travel. These flights have helped to save and improve the quality of life for countless children.

Families from across the country and the world contact Miracle Flights for Kids for assistance, and the organization works to ensure eligible children have access to the care they need, regardless of how far away the treatment center is located. They have flown children relatively short distances, such as flights from Nevada to California, and longer distances, including flights from Alaska to Colorado. They have even flown children from as far away as Turkey to Maryland. Miracle Flights for Kids also works to ensure that children can travel back to their treatment center as many times as their doctor deems necessary. For instance, they provided more than 40 flights from Ohio to Texas for one little girl so she could receive the medical attention she required.

Having a sick child is a devastating, trying experience for any parent. The services provided by Miracle Flights for Kids give families some peace-of-mind as they focus on getting their child healthy. I commend Miracle Flights for Kids for 30 years of exceptional service to children and families in Nevada and throughout the world. Their work is truly appreciated and admired, and I wish them continued success for years to come.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET A. FOCARINO AND JAMES D. SMITH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to recognize two distinguished public servants who are leaving their positions at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or USPTO,—Margaret ''Peggy'' Focarino, Commissioner for Patents, and James D. Smith, Chief Administrative Patent Judge. Both have played critical roles in bringing the USPTO into the 21st century by working tirelessly to implement the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, the most comprehensive update of U.S. patent law since the 1950s. The patent system is one of the cornerstones of our economy. It drives innovation, growth, and job creation. This country has been fortunate to have dedicated leaders such as Ms. Focarino and Mr. Smith in key positions at this crucial Agency.

Peggy Focarino became Commissioner for Patents in 2012, where she has been instrumental in developing and implementing administrative changes made by the Leahy-Smith act. Working collaboratively with all stakeholders in the patent community while implementing this law is a hallmark of her tenure as Commissioner for Patents. As someone who worked for nearly 6 years to pass comprehensive patent reform legislation, I can attest to the fact that it is not easy to bring all of these stakeholders together and build consensus. The provisions she worked to implement include the transition to first-inventor-to-file and the USPTO's fee-setting authority, but her work encompassed a number of other aspects of the Leahy-Smith act as well.

Ms. Focarino's impressive tenure as Commissioner for Patents likely did not come as a surprise to anyone who followed her rise within the USPTO. She started at the Agency in 1977 as a patent examiner. In 1997, she was promoted to the senior executive service. Throughout her almost 40 years at the USPTO, she distinguished herself as a leader within the Agency, receiving the Department of Commerce Silver Medal for Leadership in 2010. She also received American University's School of Public Affairs Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership in 2010. While the USPTO will continue to do important work without her, there is little doubt that her leadership will be missed.

James Smith also played a key role in the implementation of the Leahy-Smith act. Mr. Smith became the Chief Administrative Patent Judge in 2011. During his tenure, Mr. Smith worked to implement the postgrant review proceedings the law established. Thanks to Mr. Smith's leadership at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, these postgrant proceedings have been successful in providing low-cost alternatives to litigation for reviewing the patentability of issued patents. His strong and varied background in the private sector, including time spent working on intellectual property issues at large companies and law firms, served him well as he helped the USPTO implement these essential components of the Leahy-Smith act.

It is always difficult to see good public servants leave their roles. Ms. Focarino and Mr. Smith can look back proudly at their record of public service and point to meaningful accomplishments that have improved the U.S. patent system. I wish them both the best in their new endeavors.

VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I support the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, an important step on the road to protecting the right to vote for all Americans. It responds to a recent Supreme Court ruling that rolled back critical voting protections that had proven effective for decades and that Congress had reauthorized several times.

This landmark legislation would reaffirm the importance of the vote as a pillar of our democracy and restore a powerful shield to combat voting discrimination. I thank Senator LEAHY for his leadership on this bill, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of a bill that protects access to the ballot box for all American citizens.

Mr. President, 50 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965, legislation that he called ''a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield.'' At the time he signed the bill into law, millions of Americans were denied the right to vote based on the color of their skin.

President Johnson called this ''a clear and simple wrong'' and acknowledged that the Voting Rights Act's ''only purpose is to right that wrong.'' With the stroke of a pen, President Johnson enacted a bill that threw open the doors of democracy for all Americans and promised that the precious right to vote would be protected.

The United States has had a long and bumpy road to even achieving that promise. In the decades before the Voting Rights Act, Blacks had been denied their right to vote and participate in the political process. They were harassed and intimidated from going to the polls. Ordinary Americans who marched for themselves or their fellow citizens to exercise the right to vote were beaten, arrested, jailed, or even murdered.

On June 21, 1964, 51 years ago this week, three civil rights workers—two white young men from New York City and one black Mississippian—were killed in Mississippi by the Ku Klux Klan simply for trying to help register African Americans to vote. Their sacrifice inspired countless others to fight to make our union more perfect. Even in my home State, in Cherry Hill, NJ, stands a monument that pays tribute to these three civil rights workers who died in the struggle for equality.

Few things made African Americans feel less equal in America than being deprived of the basic right of citizenship—the right to vote. They even suffered the indignity of having to count beans in a barrel, take a literacy test, pay a poll tax, or recite from memory the preamble to the Constitution without a glitch just to cast a ballot. As a result of disenfranchising tactics, no Black southerner served in Congress from 1901 to 1973. For decades, the promises of liberty and justice for all embedded in our national charter were simply words on paper.

But the Voting Rights Act changed America. By the end of 1966, 1 year after it became law, only 4 out of the traditional 13 Southern States had less than 50 percent of African Americans registered to vote. In Mississippi alone, Black voter turnout increased from 6 percent in 1964 to 59 percent in 1969. Throughout the South, and indeed our entire country, Blacks and Latinos were elected into public office in significant numbers.

The Voting Rights Act has been the most powerful tool to defend minorities' voting rights. The law established new ground to curb voter discrimination by requiring Federal ''preclearance''—that is, Federal review—of voting law changes in areas with histories of discrimination. And therein lies its power. There is no remedy for citizens after an unfair election has occurred. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act was the only Federal remedy that could prevent unfair elections before they took place.

The lesson of history is clear—section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has made America live up to its promises of liberty and justice by ensuring that every citizen has an equal opportunity to participate in our democracy. That is why preserving the Voting Rights Act is so important. That is why Presidents Reagan, Ford, and Nixon had signed prior reauthorizations of the act. That is why in successive Congresses—both Republicans and Democrats—repeatedly reauthorized section 5.

In 2006, Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act by an overwhelming bipartisan margin. The law was reauthorized 98 to 0 in the Senate and 390 to 33 in the House and President George W. Bush signed the bill into law. It was a testament to the fact that men and women from across the aisle could come together to protect what is most important to our democracy, the right to vote. A right the Supreme Court has called fundamental because it is preservative of all other rights.

Congress developed an expansive record during its 2006 reauthorization that justified the need for section 5 as a necessary and effective tool to protect minority voters. The House and Senate Judiciary Committees found ample evidence that, even after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, States and localities continued to engage in overt and subtle tactics that discriminated against minority voters.

Two years ago, a narrowly split and deeply divided Supreme Court disregarded extensive findings of Congress and gutted the Voting Rights Act. In a case known as Shelby County v. Holder, five Justices on the Supreme Court put the Voting Rights Act on life support by striking down the formula by which Congress determines which States and localities are subject to preclearance.

That 2013 decision has nullified the ability of the Federal Government to use the preclearance requirement. Section 5 has protected constitutional guarantees against discrimination in voting even when civil rights laws tried for over 100 years to achieve the success of the Voting Rights Act. The Court reached its decision despite Congress finding an overwhelming record of contemporary voting discrimination. Even the Chief Justice wrote, ''voting discrimination still exists: no one doubts that.''

Yet, the Shelby County decision rested on a flawed logic that the Voting Rights Act was a victim of its own success. Justice Ginsburg's dissent noted a ''catch-22'' in the majority's logic. She said:

> If the statute was working, there would be less evidence of discrimination, so opponents might argue that Congress should not be allowed to renew the statute. In contrast, if the statute was not working, there would be plenty of evidence of discrimination, but scant reason to renew a failed regulatory regime.

I agree with Justice Ginsburg that the Court's decision to strike down section 5 ''when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you're not getting wet.''

Even in the aftermath of Shelby County, States continued to enact laws that make it harder for American citizens to cast their ballot. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Nation's foremost civil rights coalition, released a report last year entitled ''The Persistent Challenges of Voting Discrimination.'' That report documented 148 voting rights violations in America since 2000. Because each voting rights violation often impacts thousands of voters, the report underscored that the impact of racial discrimination in voting is much more profound than the nearly 150 documented violations suggest.

New State laws erect barriers to voting, which restrict voter registration drives, eliminate same-day voter registration, reduce the early voting period, and require photo identification and proof of citizenship to vote. So far, 32 States have passed laws requiring voters to show some kind of identification at the polls, which often have a disparate impact on minority and low-income voters.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act would help prevent voting practices that are likely to be discriminatory before they cause harm. It would create a new nationwide coverage formula requiring States and localities to obtain preclearance for voting changes that have historically been found to be discriminatory. It would enhance the authority of courts to order a preclearance remedy, require greater transparency regarding voting changes, and clarify the Attorney General's authority to send Federal observers to monitor elections across the country.

In his ''I Have a Dream'' speech, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, ''When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.'' The Voting Rights Act has been one of our most important tools to fulfill that promise and protect voters against discrimination. Congress now has a historic opportunity to ensure that the critical provisions in that law are restored and strengthened.

Now is the time to recommit ourselves to the cause of justice. Now is the time to safeguard our democratic values. Now is the time to protect the progress so many Americans worked so hard to establish. I urge all Senators to support this bill that would combat voter discrimination and breathe life back into the Voting Rights Act.

PASSENGER RAIL LEGISLATION

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, the tragic Amtrak derailment last month shined a light on the critical need to have a strong, safe passenger rail system for the millions of passengers traveling on our rails. My heart goes out to

the families and individuals impacted by the tragedy and I hope we never see anything like it again.

Last week I joined my colleague, Senator WICKER in introducing the Railroad Reform, Enhancement, and Efficiency Act, comprehensive passenger rail legislation that boosts our infrastructure and implements needed reforms. Most importantly, it improves safety on our Nation's railways. This 4-year authorization is a step forward in providing the stability Amtrak needs to be successful and serve the consumers who rely on it.

Across every mode of transportation, America needs critical investment. Nowhere is the investment crisis more pronounced than in New Jersey. The century-old tunnels that run under the Hudson River between New Jersey and New York are reaching a breaking point. We must act with urgency to find State and local partners to replace this critical infrastructure. New Jersey is also home to the Portal Bridge, which is in need of replacement in order to prevent delays and closures that slow our economy. It has been estimated that the loss of the Northeast Corridor could cost the country $100 million per day; a devastating impact that we cannot afford. The costs for these projects are significant, which is why we must find new ways to help advance them.

Our legislation is a game changer for large-scale rail projects. The bill helps unlock and leverage innovative financing opportunities by improving the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program, or RRIF. Our legislation will establish new creditworthiness criteria focused on the merits of the project, increase repayment flexibility, help leverage private financing opportunities, and speed up the process of applying for and receiving a loan—all of which can help advance projects like the Gateway Project along the Northeast Corridor. As China and other countries invest tens of billions for rail infrastructure, we must do more than maintain the status quo. Our bill's financing provisions enable us to take every possible advantage to improve our rail capacity and infrastructure.

Our legislation also includes strong safety provisions to protect passengers and workers. Positive train control, or PTC, was cited as a technology that could have prevented the tragic derailment last month and our legislation will advance deployment of PTC by authorizing grants and prioritizing loan applications to support implementation. Additionally, the legislation will improve safety by requiring action on priorities like grade crossings and enforcing speed limits, as well as worker protections, among various other provisions.

It is important to note that a strong authorization of funding for passenger rail is only the start. Investing in the future of America's rail network will also require dedicated and multi-year streams of revenue to support the funding authorized in this bill. I am committed to working with my colleagues on the Finance Committee to make that a reality.

The Railroad Reform, Enhancement, and Efficiency Act is important for our global competitiveness and a forward step in promoting investment in our infrastructure. I thank the committee leadership and Senator WICKER for their support and work on this important legislation that will improve the lives of New Jerseyans and individuals across the country I urge my colleagues to support it.

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF DACA PROGRAM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I would like to commemorate the third-year anniversary of the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, program. On June 15, 2015, we celebrated this successful, although not comprehensive, policy that has provided deportation relief to more than 660,000 child immigrants nationally, including 14,900 in Colorado.

This life-changing program has allowed young people who were brought to the United States as children—DREAMers—to fully engage in their communities by continuing their education and having the opportunity to work. They have been able to open bank accounts, obtain credit cards, and receive driver's licenses. Deferred action is giving these young people relief and some degree of certainty to pursue opportunities that would not have been available to them otherwise.

DACA has given DREAMers hope for their future. They include DREAMers like Alex Alvarado-Rentería who has lived in Carbondale, CO for the last 18 years and has known no other home outside of the United States. Alex's parents migrated from Mexico and worked as farmworkers in order to give their children an opportunity for a better life. Alex was granted DACA and has since graduated from the Metropolitan State University of Denver with a bachelor of arts in history and Chicana/o studies. He now plans to become the first in his family to earn an advanced degree by attending law school and opening up his own immigration law practice one day.

We also have DREAMers like Lourdes Bustos from Denver, CO who has lived in the United States for the last 26 years and who was able to stay with her children upon receiving DACA. It was years before Lourdes realized she was not documented and would not be able to work legally or get a driver's license. Granting her deferred action meant that she would not be separated from her family. Lourdes has graduated from high school and has opened her own painting business.

DACA has played a transformative role in increasing social and economic integration for youth who have been raised and educated in our country. It has given DREAMers an opportunity to invest in their futures. It has empowered DREAMers with a sense of community and belonging.

This program has helped many of our young people, but only offers a temporary solution to the unfair consequences of our broken immigration system. This anniversary should also serve as a stark reminder that every day that Congress fails to enact immigration reform, it jeopardizes our economy, our safety, and our communities. It is time to put politics aside and work to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL SAMUEL LOCKLEAR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, after a lifetime of service to our Nation, ADM Samuel J. Locklear III recently stepped down as Commander of United States Pacific Command and retired from the U.S. Navy. On this occasion, I wish to honor Admiral Locklear's 43 years of distinguished uniformed service to our Nation.

Admiral Locklear graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1977. He has led at every level from command-at-sea to theater command. Prior to assuming command of the United States Pacific Command, he commanded U.S. Naval Forces Europe and concurrently, U.S. Naval Forces Africa and NATO's Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command, where his leadership was instrumental in galvanizing an effective coalition of 18 NATO nations to support the complex Libya air campaign.

At Pacific Command, Admiral Locklear provided the strategic vision required to lead in a region vital to America's future peace and prosperity. He has presided over the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific with an even-keeled leadership approach that has focused our Nation in a time of difficult security challenges and austere budgets. Pacific Command is the oldest and largest of our geographic commands encompassing roughly half of the Earth's surface, extending from pole to pole and across the vastness of two great oceans. Admiral Locklear skillfully navigated the complexities and competing interests of this expansive theater. He has worked to strengthen alliances, reinvigorate old ones, cultivate new partnerships, and maintain a robust forward presence to assure and defend our allies and partners.

Admiral Locklear's legacy of service will be as a driving force behind a renewed commitment to protecting America's enduring interests in the Asia-Pacific region. When the Nation needed its very best in military experience, leadership, and advice to confront the challenges and threats we face globally, Admiral Locklear answered the call.

I join many past and present members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in my gratitude to ADM Samuel Locklear for his outstanding

leadership and his unwavering commitment to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. His impact will continue into the coming decades and our Navy and our Nation will feel his absence. I wish him and his wife Pam ''fair winds and following seas.''

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT ROBERT ''STAN'' LOWE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and remember one of Wyoming's many World War II heroes, LT Robert ''Stan'' Lowe. On Friday, June 19, 2015, Wyoming and our Nation lost one its most revered veterans advocates. Stan lived to be 92 years old.

In 1943, Stan chose to serve his Nation rather than complete his college studies and join the U.S. Merchant Marines. The Merchant Marines' mission was one of the most dangerous and important missions during World War II. The mission was critical to ensuring our servicemen had the resources they needed to ultimately defeat tyranny. While Lieutenant Lowe was keeping the sea lanes open and secure and he also had more than one job. Stan was a staff officer handling payroll and personnel matters, ran the ship store, and carried out chaplain duties. He even served as a tour coordinator for port calls to keep the young mariners out of trouble. In addition to manning their battle stations, this was the life of a Merchant Marine.

When Lieutenant Lowe returned to the United States in 1946, he like many of his fellow veterans returned to school. He went on to get a law degree. Like your traditional Merchant Marine, Stan never wore just one hat. He was first a mariner and then an attorney. He served in the Wyoming State House of Representatives and as the Carbon County Attorney. Throughout most of Stan's professional career he served as general counsel to True Oil.

Stan was the first commissioner appointed to Wyoming Veterans Commission. He served under two Governors and chaired the commission. He retired with the title of chairman emeritus. Stan never stopped serving our veterans or our community. Stan was a mentor and teacher to many of Wyoming's veterans. In every veteran he came across, he instilled the virtue that the oath servicemen and women take does not expire when you take off the uniform. He strongly believed he had responsibility to help his fellow veterans to honor and respect current servicemen and women and to serve his community.

Stan was always very involved in his community working with the Casper Rotary Club and the American Legion to name a few. He always worked behind the scenes for many causes especially for veterans. If it was the veterans' museum, efforts to protect the benefits of the widows of veterans, WWII Honor Flights or veteran license plates, Stan probably had his finger prints all over it. Stan also fought hard to get the Merchant Marines recognized with veteran status. He and Merchant Marines around the Nation finally got this much deserved recognition in 1988.

For almost 30 years, on every Memorial Day, Stan would recite Flanders Field at the Oregon Trail Veterans Cemetery. It was always a humbling experience. In his later years, despite the pain, Stan would rise from his chair like a maestro stepping up to a podium. With a quiet tone that could reach the back of the chapel, Stan would begin by reciting the poem. His voice would draw you into a moment in time reminding you of the silence of peace. Children and adults alike would hang on his every word and Stan's voice, like a lullaby, reminded us of soldiers who were loved and paid the ultimate price for freedom. For that moment, you felt warm and secure in their remembrance. As gently he begun he would end and quietly sit. The only sound you could hear was the breathing of the crowd.

Stan was preceded in death by his wife Anne ''Pat'' Kirtland Selden Lowe, and is survived by his two children Robert J. Lowe and wife Lanette and Meganne L. Acres and husband Craig, sister-in-law Ruth Selden Sturgill, brother-in-law George L. Selden, grandchildren Parker and Dalton Lowe, Hannah and Ben Acres, niece Lauren and husband Bill Gasmick, nephew John Lefferdink and Lanette's father Jerry Kelly.

Stan epitomizes the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and service to our communities. It also epitomizes the Rotary motto ''Service Above Self.'' People like Stan Lowe do not come around often so we thank him for all he has done to make our Nation safe and Wyoming a better State.

Stan, my friend, as they say in the Merchant Marines, ''fair winds and following seas.''

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NASWA 80TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to honor a long standing New Hampshire institution, often called ''the ultimate NH Resort Destination.'' The NASWA Resort at Weirs Beach in Laconia, NH, also known as, ''The Naz,'' is named for the natural spring water that was found at the site of the original cabins.

This year, the NASWA will celebrate its 80th year of continuous operation in the Granite State. As the 6th annual NASWA Day approaches, it is a time to celebrate the thousands of people from New Hampshire and around the country who have visited this relaxing destination overlooking Paugus Bay on Lake Winnipesaukee.

Drawing guests from the Lakes Region to the White Mountains, the NASWA is a place for people to enjoy the beauty of the Granite State, family fun, summertime entertainment and recreation. People of all ages can enjoy paddleboats, fine and casual dining, gather with friends, or take a swim in the lake. Founded by Greek immigrants in 1935, the NASWA is still a family-run business, owned and operated by Hope Makris, who continues to live on the property, her daughters Cynthia and Karen, and the rest of the family. To this day, you will find Hope in the kitchen, baking all of the desserts, including Greek pastries.

The Makris family has made tremendous contributions to the community. Each year, the NASWA hosts the Peter Makris Memorial Run in honor of Hope's late husband, which benefits the Laconia Fire Department's Life Saving Fund and Water Rescue Team. The Makris family is also committed to serving veterans. Hope's daughter Cynthia serves as the Lakes Region chairwoman of the Easter Seals Veterans Count program; and for the past 14 years, the NASWA has hosted the Easter Seals Land and Lake Poker Run. The run further benefits the Easter Seals of New Hampshire and the Veterans Count program.

As a native Granite Stater and on behalf of the State of New Hampshire, I congratulate the NASWA and the Makris family. After 80 years, the NASWA continues to be a beloved New Hampshire destination, and I wish the Makris family the very best for many more decades to come.•

REMEMBERING RALPH J. ROBERTS

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish today to remember Ralph J. Roberts, a proud Pennsylvanian and a national business leader. Ralph passed away on June 18, 2015, at the age of 95, after a long life of personal and professional success.

To many across our Nation, Ralph was best known as the founder of Comcast, where he served for 46 years as the chief executive officer. Navigating complex technological developments in a competitive entertainment market, Ralph's entrepreneurial spirit helped lead Comcast from a small, local startup in 1963 to the country's largest cable television company today. His professional achievements complemented his extensive philanthropic work; Ralph held positions on several charitable boards in Philadelphia, where he offered his business acumen to support local economic and community development projects.

One of the defining aspects of Ralph's career was undoubtedly his enduring partnership with his son Brian, as they built a strong business team while maintaining their close father-son relationship. As the New York Times wrote on June 19, 2015:

> Mr. Roberts, typically dapper in his signature bow tie and Brooks Brothers suits, became his son's mentor and sounding board, and the two were admired as a potent business partnership while never displaying the

kind of strained and tempestuous relationship that can flare when a son succeeds a successful father.

''Since I was 12, all I wanted to do was work with my dad,'' Brian Roberts said in an interview for this obituary. ''I believe the reason we are still in this business when so many others have long since departed was his will to succeed, and to do it with certain core values and integrity. Maybe it was losing both his parents before he was 21, living through the Depression, but somehow he became an optimist. He was the most optimistic man I ever knew. He never told me anything I wanted to do at Comcast was a bad idea, and after more than 30 years, you'd think I've had a lot of bad ideas.''

Together, Brian and Ralph had many good ideas that brought television to tens of millions across America. We are all forever grateful for Ralph Roberts' contributions to the American business world and to telecommunications. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our Nation benefited from Ralph's hard work and vision. Our prayers are with his wife Suzanne, his children, and his grandchildren.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL PAUL F. DUDLEY, RETIRED

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today we honor the life and service of Col. Paul F. Dudley, Retired, whose passing signifies a great loss to Nevada. I send my condolences and prayers to his wife Barbara and all of Mr. Dudley's family in this time of mourning, including his 6 children, 16 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. Mr. Dudley was a man committed to his family, his country, his State, and his community. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Dudley was born on April 24, 1925, in Marengo, OH. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marines and served during World War II. Following the war, Mr. Dudley attended Otterbein College and served his local community as an Ohio State Patrol trooper and detective. He later served in the Ohio Air National Guard, following graduating first in his class from the Air Force in Colorado as a nuclear weapons maintenance officer and returning to active duty. Throughout his service with the Ohio Air National Guard, he commanded the NATO Special Ammunition Storage Site in Ghedi, Italy. In 1975, he moved his family to Las Vegas and served at Nellis Air Force Base to command the Aviation Depot Squadron. Mr. Dudley's service to this country has been invaluable.

From serving in World War II, to his Air Force assignments as a nuclear safety officer in Italy, to his duty as an inspector general at the Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam, his bravery was without limit. Mr. Dudley received two Distinguished Flying Cross medals for his extraordinary actions as a Marine radioman-gunner during World War II and also flew in 43 combat missions throughout the Pacific campaign.

As a World War II veteran, Mr. Dudley's commitment to his country, as well as his dedication to his family and community, exemplified why the legacy of all World War II veterans must be preserved for generations to come. These veterans truly are the ''greatest generation''—selflessly serving not for recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Barbara and all of Mr. Dudley's family. We will always remember Mr. Dudley for his courageous contributions to the United States of America. His service to his country and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

Throughout his life, Mr. Dudley maintained a dedication to keeping this great Nation safe, which I am honored to commend. His patriotism and drive will never be forgotten. Today, I join the Las Vegas community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an upstanding Nevadan.●

CONGRATULATING FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Foothill High School on its team of students selected as the Southwest regional winner and third place overall in the sixth annual Vans Custom Culture shoe designing contest. The contest was highly competitive with 2,529 schools registered to participate. Five students, including April Siglos, Cayleigh Miner, Catherine Swift, Shelby Baker, and Aimee Perry, were chosen to represent the high school at the award ceremony in New York. Students Daniel Di'Antonio and Elizabeth Marshall were also important contributors to the team, participating in the design process. Competitors were required to design pairs of shoes for four categories including art, music, action sports, and local flavor. The team won a total of $4,000 for its achievement in being selected in the top five competitors, a contribution that will help future Foothill students for years to come.

The contest has been utilized by Foothill High School art teacher Sarah Plough as a classroom assignment in recent years, giving students the opportunity to harness their creative side and apply their art skills to a three-dimensional object. Students in Ms. Plough's class were also assigned to participate in local contests, bringing their artwork outside of Foothill High School's walls and into the local community. Ms. Plough's drive to bring opportunity to her students is appreciated by the entire Foothill High School and Las Vegas communities.

The students are shining examples to their fellow Foothill Falcons, focusing a great amount of time and effort to create phenomenal artwork for the competition. They spent 5 weeks working on their designs and even devoted hours over spring break to their projects. They should be proud of their hard work and their great accomplishment.

I am excited to see local students bringing recognition to both Nevada and to Foothill High School for their advancement in a national competition. Their accolade is well deserved. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Foothill High School for its success and its honorable representation of Nevada.●

TRIBUTE TO RAEGAN ARNOLDY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Raegan Arnoldy, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Raegan is a graduate of Lyman County High School in Presho, SD. Currently, Raegan is attending the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, where she is majoring in communication studies and business administration. Raegan is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Raegan Arnoldy for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MACI BURKE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Maci Burke, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Maci is a graduate of Chamberlain High School in Chamberlain, SD. Currently, Maci is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she is majoring in political science. Maci is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Maci Burke for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE KERR

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Danielle Kerr, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Danielle is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD as well as the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, UNL, with an English major. Currently she has been accepted into the 2018 class at the UNL College of Law.

Danielle is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Danielle Kerr for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEX SACHTJEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Alex Sachtjen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Alex is a graduate of Burke High School in Burke, SD. Currently, Alex is attending Augustana College, where he is majoring in government and international affairs and business administration. Alex is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alex Sachtjen for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TIARA TINGLE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Tiara Tingle, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Tiara is a graduate of Brandon Valley High School in Brandon, SD. Currently, Tiara is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she is majoring in economics. Tiara is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tiara Tingle for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the resolution (H. Res. 340) returning to the Senate the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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, and, in the opinion of this House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill, with the Senate amendment thereto, shall be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

At 1:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2042. An act to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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, and asks for a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Armed Services: Messrs. THORNBERRY, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, WILSON of South Carolina, LOBIONDO, BISHOP of Utah, TURNER, KLINE, ROGERS of Alabama, SHUSTER, CONAWAY, LAMBORN, WITTMAN, HUNTER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Messrs. HECK of Nevada, WENSTRUP, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Messrs. GARAMENDI, JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1295) to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes, without amendment.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1698. A bill to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1180. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–73).

By Mr. BLUNT, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1695. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–74).

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2577. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–75).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 204. A resolution recognizing June 20, 2015 as ''World Refugee Day''.

S. Res. 207. A resolution recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments and an amendment to the title and with a preamble:

S. Res. 211. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Srebrenica.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

S. 1643. A bill to require a report on actions to secure the safety and security of dissidents housed at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*David Hale, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Nominee: David Hale.

Post: Islamabad.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: N/A.
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
4. Parents: Marjorie Freeman, $25, 5/20/10, RNC; $25, 2/19/12, RNC; $10, 4/12/12, RNC; $20, 8/15/12, RNC; $20, 9/21/12, RNC; $20, 9/27/13, RNC; $50, 4/8/14, RNC; $100, 6/30/14, RNC; $25, 9/27/12, Romney Victory Fund.
5. Grandparents: N/A.
6. Brothers and Spouses: John Hale, $50, 4/25/11, Bridgewaterepublican Municipal Committee.
7. Sisters and Spouses: $50, 4/26/13, Same.

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*Atul Keshap, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Maldives.

Nominee: Atul Keshap.

Post: Colombo, Sri Lanka.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: n/a.

2. Spouse: Karen Young Keshap: n/a.

3. Children and Spouses (all unmarried minor children): n/a.

4. Parents: Zoe Antoinette Calvert (mother), n/a; Dr. Keshap Chander Sen, Ph.D. (father—deceased 2008: n/a.

5. Grandparents: Chaudhry Bhawani Das Arora (deceased 1965): n/a; Chinko Bhai Sachdeva (deceased 1991): n/a; Richard Creagh Mackubin Calvert (deceased 1968): n/a; Margaret Taylor Calvert (deceased 2003): n/a.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Kiran Keshap (unmarried): n/a; Arun Keshap (unmarried): n/a; Rahul and Rochelle Keshap: $500, 03/14/2010, Thomas Perriello; $100, 08/10/2010, Thomas Perriello.

7. Sisters and Spouses: No sisters.

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*Alaina B. Teplitz, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Nominee: Alaina Beth Teplitz.

Post: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: N/A (and none prior to divorce).

3. Children and Spouses: Maximilien Mellott, none; Miles Mellott, none.

4. Parents: Marsha Neece, none; Jack Teplitz, please see attached; Marcella Teplitz, none.

5. Grandparents: Thomas Freeman, none; Janis Freeman, none.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Nathan Teplitz, none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

Jack Teplitz, Political Donations—Jan. 1, 2010–Sep. 11, 2014

Date, description, amount:

2010

02/24/10, Democratic National Committee, Barack Obama, 100.00.

03/23/10, Democratic National Committee, Barack Obama, 50.00.

06/29/10, Democratic National Committee, 50.00.

09/03/10, Democratic National Committee, 25.00.

09/28/10, Democratic National Committee, 25.00.

10/12/10, Democratic National Committee, Barack Obama, 90.00.

10/28/10, Democratic National Committee, Barack Obama, 10.00.

10/28/10, Democratic National Committee, Barack Obama, 75.00.

10/31/10, Democratic National Committee, Barack Obama, 5.00.

Total 2010: 430.00.

2011

01/21/11, Citizens for Grayeb (Peoria City Council), 100.00.

02/16/11, Friends of Chuck Weaver (Peoria City Council), 50.00.

06/30/11, Obama for America, 100.00.

08/11/11, Obama for America, 100.00.

09/06/11, Citizens for Koehler (IL State Senate), 100.00.

11/01/11, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, 50.00.

12/01/11, Committee to Elect Kate Gorman (IL Circuit Court Judge), 100.00.

12/29/11, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, 50.00.

Total 2011: 650.00.

2012

05/04/12, Obama for America, 25.00.

08/21/12, ActBlue*Donate to Dems, 38.50.

09/06/12, Obama Victory Fund, 150.00.

09/07/12, Obama Victory Fund, 100.00.

09/28/12, ActBlue*DCCC-House Democrats, 55.00.

10/11/12, Friends of Dave Koehler (IL State Senate), 100.00.

Total 2012: 468.50.

2013

01/31/13, Chuck Grayeb for Council (Peoria City Council), 200.00.

Total 2013: 200.00.

2014

08/07/14, ActBlue*Cheri Bustos (US Rep from IL), 50.00.

Total 2014: 50.00.

Black Heron, LLC, Political Donations—Jan. 1, 2010–Sep. 11, 2014

Date, description, amount:

2010

10/06/10, Batavians Against Debt, 9,233.13.

10/13/10, Batavians Against Debt, 8,156.44.

10/21/10, Batavians Against Debt, 9,000.00.

10/28/10, Batavians Against Debt, 6,755.74.

12/08/10, Batavians Against Debt, 17,394.16.

Total 2010: 50,539.47.

2011

02/03/11, Batavians Against Debt, 400.00.

02/18/11, Batavians Against Debt, 5,462.00.

Total 2011: 5,862.00.

These were contributions to a group in Batavia, IL that was opposed to a Park District referendum which wanted authority to construct a multi-million dollar fitness center. This facility would have had an adverse effect on one of my fathers most substantial clients. The contributions were made by Black Heron, LLC, a company he formed and for which he was the sole owner/member.

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*William A. Heidt, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Nominee: William A. Heidt.

Post: Cambodia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Sotie Kenmano Heidt, None.

3. Children and Spouses: Allen Soriya Heidt, None.

4. Parents: Robert E. Heidt—deceased; Audrey C. Heidt—deceased.

5. Grandparents: William D. Heidt—deceased; Emma Heidt—deceased; Henry Weber—deceased; Myrtle Weber—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Stephen R. Heidt, $8,800, Various (2011–15), Hewlett Packard (Payroll deductions) Company PAC; Pam S. Knudsen, None; Kenneth R. Heidt—deceased; Lenny Heidt, None; John D. Heidt, None; Nicole Heidt, None; Paul E. Heidt, None; Carrie Heidt, None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Catherine Savvas, $130, 2011, KeyCorp Advocate Fund; $130, 2012, KeyCorp Advocate Fund; $75 (est.), 2013, KeyCorp Advocate Fund; Savvas H. Savvas, $260, 2011, MWH PAC; $260, 2012, MWH PAC; $260, 2013, MWH PAC; $270, 2014, MWH PAC; $80, 2014, MWH PAC; Beth Praskwiecz, None; John Praskwiecz, None.

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*Glyn Townsend Davies, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Nominee: Glyn T. Davies.

Post: Bangkok, Thailand.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Ashley M. Springer (daughter): None; Chapin L. Springer (spouse): $100, 2009, Barack Obama; $50, 2012, DCCC; Theodora E. Davies (daughter): None.

4. Parents: Richard T. Davies—deceased; Jean S. Davies: None.

5. Grandparents: Wilmer E. Stevens—deceased; Alice H. Stevens—deceased; John Davies—deceased; Laura Davies—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: John S. Davies: None; Lou Michaels (spouse): None; Michael H. Davies: None; Stephen A. Davies: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

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*Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, of Colorado, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Mongolia.

Nominee: Jennifer Zimdahl Galt.

Post: Ambassador to Mongolia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Frederick Mahler Galt: $250, 06/27/2012, Obama, Barack via Obama for America; $250, 06/27/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $250, 09/1/2012, Obama, Barack via Obama for America.

3. Children and Spouses: Phoebe Anna Galt (no spouse): None; Dylan Chase Galt (no spouse): None.

4. Parents: Robert Lawrence Zimdahl: None; Ann Osborn Zimdahl (mother)—deceased; Pamela Jeanne McLean (née Lutz) Zimdahl (stepmother)—deceased; Karen Roney (née Johnson) Zimdahl (stepmother): None.

5. Grandparents: Clinton Morris Osborn—deceased; Catherine Ruth Osborn—deceased; Mildred Maria (née Lawrence) Zimdahl—deceased; Alfred Frank Zimdahl—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Randall Lawrence Zimdahl: None; Michelle Zimdahl (spouse): None; Robert Osborn Zimdahl (no spouse): None; Thomas Edward Zimdahl: None; Britt Meisenheimer (marriage 9/20/2014): None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: n/a.

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*Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

*Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years.

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Coast Guard nomination of Brian J. Maggi, to be Lieutenant Commander.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Anna W. Hickey and ending with Kimberly C. Young-Mclear, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2015.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. SANDERS:

S. 1677. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

S. 1678. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as ''Harold George Bennett Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1679. A bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1680. A bill to improve the condition and performance of the national multimodal freight network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1681. A bill to criminalize the knowing use of commercial robocalls without the prior express written consent of the recipient, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1682. A bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 and to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on the use by Iran of funds made available through sanctions relief; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1683. A bill to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1684. A bill to amend the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 to provide for liability protection for organizations and entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1685. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1686. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of personal service income earned in pass-thru entities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restrict the insurance business exception to passive foreign investment company rules; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. REID, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1688. A bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1689. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reduce the funding available for a State under the national highway performance program and the surface transportation program if the State issues a license plate that contains an image of a flag of the Confederate States of America, including the Battle Flag of the Confederate States of America; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1690. A bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 1691. A bill to expedite and prioritize forest management activities to achieve ecosystem restoration objectives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 1692. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the use of a towaway trailer transportation combination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 1693. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for reimbursement for emergency medical treatment to certain veterans that were unable to receive care from the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 24-month period preceding the furnishing of such emergency treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1694. A bill to amend Public Law 103–434 to authorize Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project for the purposes of improving water management in the Yakima River basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUNT:

S. 1695. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1696. A bill to redesignate the Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia, to revise the boundary of that monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1697. A bill to provide an exception from certain group health plan requirements to allow small businesses to use pre-tax dollars to assist employees in the purchase of policies in the individual health insurance market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BURR, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1698. A bill to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits; read the first time.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1699. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1700. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to establish a program to provide loans and loan guarantees to enable eligible public entities to purchase credits from mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs or acquire interests in real property that are acquired pursuant to mitigation projects required under certain Federal Water Pollution Control Act permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1701. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify a provision relating to discharges of dredged or fill material into navigable waters at specified disposal sites; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1702. A bill to require the administering authority to determine an individual countervailable subsidy rate upon request if four or fewer exporters and producers are involved in the investigation or review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 1703. A bill to direct the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to carry out a collaborative research effort to prevent drunk driving injuries and fatalities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ENZI:

S.J. Res. 17. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give States the right to repeal Federal laws and regulations when ratified by the legislatures of two-thirds of the several States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. Res. 214. A resolution commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope, a preeminent international women's association and an affiliate organization of

the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 215. A resolution designating the month of June 2015 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month'' and June 27, 2015, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. Res. 216. A resolution recognizing the month of June 2015 as ''Immigrant Heritage Month'', a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions immigrants and their children have made in shaping the history, strengthening the economy, and enriching the culture of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 804

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow deductions and credits relating to expenditures in connection with marijuana sales conducted in compliance with State law.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to preserve freedom and choice in health care.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States'', and for other purposes.

S. 1250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1250, a bill to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

S. 1403

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to promote sustainable conservation and management for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them, and for other purposes.

S. 1438

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to allow women greater access to safe and effective contraception.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to curtail the use of changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund to inflate spending.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1513

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1513, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1580, a bill to allow additional appointing authorities to select individuals from competitive service certificates.

S. 1591

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes.

S. 1603

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1603, a bill to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection Officers.

S. 1632

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1632, a bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

S. 1641

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1641, a bill to improve the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, to improve patient advocacy by the Department, and to expand availability of

complementary and integrative health, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1643, a bill to require a report on actions to secure the safety and security of dissidents housed at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1676

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1676, a bill to increase the number of graduate medical education positions treating veterans, to improve the compensation of health care providers, medical directors, and directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 207

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 207, a resolution recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

S. RES. 211

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 211, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Srebrenica.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restrict the insurance business exception to passive foreign investment company rules; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Offshore Reinsurance Tax Fairness Act. This bill closes a tax loophole that is being used by some U.S.-based hedge funds that set up insurance companies in places like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands where they aren't taxed and where their earnings are sheltered from U.S. taxes. Offshore businesses that reinsure risks and that invest in U.S. hedge funds create the potential for tax avoidance of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Under these arrangements, a hedge fund or hedge fund investors make a capital investment in an offshore reinsurance company. The offshore reinsurance company then reinvests that capital, as well as premiums it receives, in the hedge fund. The owners of the reinsurer take the position that they are not taxed on corporate earnings until either those earnings are distributed, or the investors sell the corporation's stock at a gain reflecting those earnings.

However, the hedge fund ''reinsurers'' are taking advantage of an exception to the passive foreign investment company—or PFIC—rules of U.S. tax law. The PFIC rules are designed to prevent U.S. taxpayers from delaying U.S. tax on investment income by holding investments through offshore corporations. However, the PFIC rules provide an exception for income derived from the active conduct of an insurance business. The exception applies to income derived from the active conduct of an insurance business by a corporation which is predominantly engaged in an insurance business and which would be subject to tax under Subchapter L if it were a domestic corporation.

Current law does not prescribe how much insurance or reinsurance business the company must do to be considered predominantly engaged in an insurance business. Our investigative efforts show that some companies that are not legitimate insurance companies are taking advantage of this favorable tax treatment.

About a year ago I asked the Treasury Department and IRS to issue guidance to shut down this abuse. And in April, Treasury and IRS issued regulations that take a first step at addressing this issue. However, while the guidance offers clarity in this area, a legislative fix is required to fully close this loophole.

Therefore, today I am introducing the Offshore Reinsurance Tax Fairness Act to shut down this abuse once and for all. My bill would provide a bright-line test for determining whether a company is truly an insurance company for purposes of the exception to the PFIC rules.

Under the new rule, to be considered an insurance company, the company's insurance liabilities must exceed 25 percent of its assets. If the company fails to qualify because it has 25 percent or less—but not less than 10 percent—in insurance liability assets, the company may still be predominantly engaged in the insurance business based on facts and circumstances. A company with less than 10 percent of insurance liability assets will not be considered an insurance company and, therefore, would be ineligible for the PFIC exception and subject to current taxation.

The Offshore Reinsurance Tax Fairness Act will disqualify most of the hedge fund reinsurance companies that are taking advantage of the current law loophole, making them ineligible for the PFIC exception and stopping this abuse. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this important reform.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and a technical explanation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1687

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 ''Offshore Reinsurance Tax Fairness Act''.

SEC. 2. RESTRICTION ON INSURANCE BUSINESS EXCEPTION TO PASSIVE FOREIGN INVESTMENT COMPANY RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1297(b)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(B) derived in the active conduct of an insurance business by a qualifying insurance corporation (as defined in subsection (f)),''.

(b) QUALIFYING INSURANCE CORPORATION DEFINED.—Section 1297 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) QUALIFYING INSURANCE CORPORATION.—For purposes of subsection (b)(2)(B)—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualifying insurance corporation' means, with respect to any taxable year, a foreign corporation—

''(A) which would be subject to tax under subchapter L if such corporation were a domestic corporation, and

''(B) the applicable insurance liabilities of which constitute more than 25 percent of its total assets, determined on the basis of such liabilities and assets as reported on the corporation's applicable financial statement for the last year ending with or within the taxable year.

''(2) ALTERNATIVE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES TEST FOR CERTAIN CORPORATIONS.—If a corporation fails to qualify as a qualified insurance corporation under paragraph (1) solely because the percentage determined under paragraph (1)(B) is 25 percent or less, a United States person that owns stock in such corporation may elect to treat such stock as stock of a qualifying insurance corporation if—

''(A) the percentage so determined for the corporation is at least 10 percent, and

''(B) under regulations provided by the Secretary, based on the applicable facts and circumstances—

''(i) the corporation is predominantly engaged in an insurance business, and

''(ii) such failure is due solely to temporary circumstances involving such insurance business.

''(3) APPLICABLE INSURANCE LIABILITIES.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'applicable insurance liabilities' means, with respect to any life or property and casualty insurance business—

''(i) loss and loss adjustment expenses, and

''(ii) reserves (other than deficiency, contingency, or unearned premium reserves) for life and health insurance risks and life and health insurance claims with respect to contracts providing coverage for mortality or morbidity risks.

''(B) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF LIABILITIES.—Any amount determined under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall not exceed the lesser of such amount—

''(i) as reported to the applicable insurance regulatory body in the applicable financial statement described in paragraph (4)(A) (or, if less, the amount required by applicable law or regulation), or

''(ii) as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

''(4) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND RULES.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) APPLICABLE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—The term 'applicable financial statement' means a statement for financial reporting purposes which—

''(i) is made on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles,

''(ii) is made on the basis of international financial reporting standards, but only if there is no statement that meets the requirement of clause (i), or

''(iii) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary in regulations, is the annual statement which is required to be filed with the applicable insurance regulatory body, but only if there is no statement which meets the requirements of clause (i) or (ii).

''(B) APPLICABLE INSURANCE REGULATORY BODY.—The term 'applicable insurance regulatory body' means, with respect to any insurance business, the entity established by law to license, authorize, or regulate such business and to which the statement described in subparagraph (A) is provided.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

TECHNICAL EXPLANATION OF THE OFFSHORE REINSURANCE TAX FAIRNESS ACT INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WYDEN ON JUNE 25, 2015

PRESENT LAW

Passive foreign investment companies

A U.S. person who is a shareholder of a passive foreign investment company (''PFIC'') is subject to U.S. tax in respect to that person's share of the PFIC's income under one of three alternative anti-deferral regimes. A PFIC generally is defined as any foreign corporation if 75 percent or more of its gross income for the taxable year consists of passive income, or 50 percent or more of its assets consists of assets that produce, or are held for the production of, passive income. Alternative sets of income inclusion rules apply to U.S. persons that are shareholders in a PFIC, regardless of their percentage ownership in the company. One set of rules applies to passive foreign investment companies that are ''qualified electing funds,'' under which electing U.S. shareholders currently include in gross income their respective shares of the company's earnings, with a separate election to defer payment of tax, subject to an interest charge, on income not currently received. A second set of rules applies to passive foreign investment companies that are not qualified electing funds, under which U.S. shareholders pay tax on certain income or gain realized through the company, plus an interest charge that is attributable to the value of deferral. A third set of rules applies to PFIC stock that is marketable, under which electing U.S. shareholders currently take into account as income (or loss) the difference between the fair market value of the stock as of the close of the taxable year and their adjusted basis in such stock (subject to certain limitations), often referred to as ''marking to market.''

Passive income

Passive income means any income which is of a kind that would be foreign personal holding company income, including dividends, interest, royalties, rents, and certain gains on the sale or exchange of property, commodities, or foreign currency.

However, among other exceptions, passive income does not include any income derived in the active conduct of an insurance business by a corporation that is predominantly engaged in an insurance business and that would be subject to tax under subchapter L if it were a domestic corporation.

In Notice 2003–34, the Internal Revenue Service identified issues in applying the insurance exception under the PFIC rules. One issue involves whether risks assumed under contracts issued by a foreign company organized as an insurer are truly insurance risks, and whether the risks are limited under the terms of the contracts. In the Notice, the Service also analyzed the status of the company as an insurance company. The Service looked to Treasury Regulations issued in 1960 and last amended in 1972, as well as to the statutory definition of an insurance company and to the case law. The question to resolve in determining a company's status as an insurance company is whether ''the character of all of the business actually done by [the company] . . . indicate[s] whether [the company] uses its capital and efforts primarily in investing rather than primarily in the insurance business.'' The Notice concluded that ''[t]he Service will scrutinize these arrangements and will apply the PFIC rules where it determines that [a company] is not an insurance company for federal tax purposes.''

Proposed regulations on the insurance exception under the PFIC rules published on April 24, 2015, provide that ''the term insurance business means the business of issuing insurance and annuity contracts and the reinsuring of risks underwritten by insurance companies, together with those investment activities and administrative services that are required to support or are substantially related to insurance and annuity contracts issued or reinsured by the foreign corporation.'' The proposed regulations provide that an investment activity is an activity producing foreign personal holding company income, and that is ''required to support or [is] substantially related to insurance and annuity contracts issued or reinsured by the foreign corporation to the extent that income from the activities is earned from assets held by the foreign corporation to meet obligations under the contracts.''

The preamble to the proposed regulations specifically requests comments on the proposed regulations ''with regard to how to determine the portion of a foreign insurance company's assets that are held to meet obligations under insurance contracts issued or reinsured by the company,'' for example, if the assets ''do not exceed a specified percentage of the corporation's total insurance liabilities for the year.''

REASONS FOR CHANGE

The establishment of offshore businesses that reinsure risks and that invest in U.S. hedge funds has been characterized as creating the potential for tax avoidance. In these arrangements, a hedge fund or hedge fund investors make a capital investment in an offshore reinsurance company. The offshore reinsurance company then reinvests that capital (as well as premiums it receives) as reserves in the hedge fund. Because the capital may be held largely or completely in one investment (the hedge fund), an insurance regulator may require a higher level of reserves to compensate for the lack of diversification. This can magnify the effect of holding a high level of reserves relative to a low level of insurance liabilities.

The owners of the offshore reinsurance company take the position that the reinsurance company is not a PFIC, and that investors in it are not taxed on its earnings until those earnings are distributed or the investors sell the reinsurance company stock at a gain reflecting those earnings. U.S. PFIC rules designed to prevent tax deferral through offshore corporations provide an exception for income derived in the active conduct of an insurance business. What it takes to qualify under this exception as an insurance business, including how much insurance or reinsurance business the company must do to qualify under the exception, may not be completely clear.

The hedge fund reinsurance arrangement is said to provide indefinite deferral of U.S. taxation of the hedge fund's investment earnings, such as interest and dividends. At the time the taxpayer chooses to liquidate the investment, ordinary investment earnings are said to be converted to capital gains, which are subject to a lower rate of tax. The use of offshore reinsurance companies allows large-scale investments that are said to be consistent with capital and reserve requirements applicable to the insurance and reinsurance business.

Media attention to hedge fund reinsurance has described the practice as dating from an arrangement set up in 1999. In recent years, the practice has grown, giving rise to a serious income mismeasurement problem. The ''Offshore Reinsurance Tax Fairness Act'' seeks to prevent this income mismeasurement by modifying the definition of an insurance company for purposes of the PFIC rules. The ''Offshore Reinsurance Tax Fairness Act'' provides that objective measures of a firm's real insurance risks compared to its assets are used to determine whether a firm is an insurance company, or is a disguise cloaking untaxed offshore income.

EXPLANATION OF PROVISION

Applicable insurance liabilities as a percentage of total assets

Under the provision, passive income for purposes of the PFIC rules does not include income derived in the active conduct of an insurance business by a corporation (1) that would be subject to tax under subchapter L if it were a domestic corporation; and (2) the applicable insurance liabilities of which constitute more than 25 percent of its total assets as reported on the company's applicable financial statement for the last year ending with or within the taxable year.

For the purpose of the provision's exception from passive income, applicable insurance liabilities means, with respect to any property and casualty or life insurance business (1) loss and loss adjustment expenses, (2) reserves (other than deficiency, contingency, or unearned premium reserves) for life and health insurance risks and life and health insurance claims with respect to contracts providing coverage for mortality or morbidity risks. This includes loss reserves for property and casualty, life, and health insurance contracts and annuity contracts. Unearned premium reserves with respect to any type of risk are not treated as applicable insurance liabilities for purposes of the provision. For purposes of the provision, the amount of any applicable insurance liability may not exceed the lesser of such amount (1) as reported to the applicable insurance regulatory body in the applicable financial statement (or, if less, the amount required by applicable law or regulation), or (2) as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

An applicable financial statement is a statement for financial reporting purposes that (1) is made on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, (2) is made on the basis of international financial reporting standards, but only if there is no statement made on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, or (3) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary in regulations, is the annual statement required to be filed with the applicable insurance regulatory body, but only if there is no statement made on either of the foregoing bases. Unless otherwise provided in regulations, it is intended that generally accepted accounting principles means U.S. GAAP.

The applicable insurance regulatory body means, with respect to any insurance business, the entity established by law to license, authorize, or regulate such insurance business and to which the applicable financial statement is provided. For example, in the United States, the applicable insurance regulatory body is the State insurance regulator to which the corporation provides its annual statement.

Election to apply alternative test in certain circumstances

If a corporation fails to qualify solely because its applicable insurance liabilities constitute 25 percent or less of its total assets, a United States person who owns stock of the corporation may elect in such manner as the Secretary prescribes to treat the stock as stock of a qualifying insurance corporation if (1) the corporation's applicable insurance liabilities constitute at least 10 percent of its total assets, and (2) based on the applicable facts and circumstances, the corporation is predominantly engaged in an insurance business, and its failure to qualify under the 25 percent threshold is due solely to temporary circumstances involving such insurance business.

Whether the corporation's applicable insurance liabilities constitute at least 10 percent of its total assets is determined in the same manner as whether the corporation's applicable insurance liabilities constitute more than 25 percent of its total assets.

In determining whether the corporation is predominantly engaged in an insurance business, relevant facts and circumstances under this election include: the number of insurance contracts issued or taken on through reinsurance by the firm; the amount of insurance liabilities (determined as above) with respect to such contracts; the total assets of the firm (determined as above); information with respect to claims payment patterns for the current and prior years; the nature of risks underwritten and the data available on likelihood of the risk occurring (extremely low-risk but extremely high cost risks are less indicative of being engaged in an insurance business); the firm's loss exposure as calculated for a regulator such as the SEC or for a rating agency, or if those are not calculated, for internal pricing purposes; the percentage of gross receipts constituting premiums for the current and prior years; whether the firm makes substantial expenditures during the taxable year with respect to marketing or soliciting new insurance or reinsurance business; and such other facts or circumstances as the Secretary may prescribe.

Facts and circumstances that tend to show the firm may not be predominantly engaged in an insurance business include a small number of insured risks with low likelihood but large potential costs; workers focused to a greater degree on investment activities than underwriting activities; and low loss exposure. The fact that a firm has been holding itself out as an insurer for a long period is not determinative either way.

Temporary circumstances include the fact that the company is in runoff, that is, it is not taking on new insurance business (and consequently has little or no premium income), and is using its remaining assets to pay off claims with respect to pre-existing insurance risks on its books. Temporary circumstances may also include specific requirements with respect to capital and surplus relating to insurance liabilities imposed by a rating agency as a condition of obtaining a rating necessary to write new insurance business for the current year.

Temporary circumstances do not refer to starting up an insurance business; the present-law PFIC rules include a special start-up year rule under which a foreign corporation that would be a PFIC under the income or assets test will not be considered a PFIC in the first year in which it has gross income if, among other requirements, the corporation is not a PFIC in either of the two following years. This start-up year exception to status as a PFIC applies broadly to all foreign corporations including those in the insurance business.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1697. A bill to provide an exception from certain group health plan requirements to allow small businesses to use pre-tax dollars to assist employees in the purchase of policies in the individual health insurance market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, over the past year and half or more, many small business owners have discovered they could be subject to punitive penalties simply for helping their employees purchase health insurance. This is the result of a little understood provision in the Affordable Care Act, ACA.

Farmers, ranchers, and small business owners frequently do not have the resources to offer a traditional group health plan to their employees. However, many still want to help their employees obtain health coverage. They have frequently done this by reimbursing their employees on a pre-tax basis for the cost of health insurance the employee purchases on the individual market.

However, as a result of so-called market reforms in the ACA, small business owners who want to help their employees purchase insurance on the individual market could be subject to a $100 a day per employee penalty.

This fails to meet the common sense test. These businesses have no obligation under the ACA to offer any form of insurance. However, they would like to do what they can to help their employees obtain coverage. This is a practice that should be commended, not penalized.

I have had a number of farmers, small business owners, and accountants reach out to me over the past year explaining how this penalty has the potential to be devastating. Just as examples, I want to read excerpts from a couple emails I have received from Iowans.

The first is from a constituent who is a dentist in Sioux City, IA:

> Help! . . . I am a small business owner—7 employees. I have been helping to subsidize my employee's health insurance for 20 years. I just found out that the Market Reforms of the ACA have made that illegal. . . . Now all of my employees will have to pay taxes on the money I gave them for Health Insurance. They all live paycheck to paycheck and won't be able to come up with the taxes on this money. They also most likely won't qualify for the exchanges and any government subsidy. They are caught in the middle. I can't subsidize their Health Insurance because I risk a $100/day/employee penalty . . . Please hurry and do something to help the millions of middle class small business employees who are caught between a rock and a hard place.

This next one is from an accountant in Zwingle, IA:

> I recently completed two classes for CPE credit for my CPA license. These classes covered the Affordable Care Act and the presenters were adamant that we contact our senators and representatives on behalf of small businesses. I do have a client that this affects that could potentially be put out of business.
>
> Businesses that have section 105 plans or that provide additional salary to employees for the employees to purchase health insurance privately or through the government marketplace can be fined $100 per day per employee. That is $36,500 per employee per year!
>
> I'm trying to help my client to figure out how to stop the payments to the employees and not be destroyed by the potential fines. This could be absolutely devastating.

No doubt, there are countless other small business owners who have similarly been caught off guard. In fact, due to widespread confusion, the IRS granted penalty relief earlier this year. However, this penalty relief runs out at the end of this month. Legislation is necessary to eliminate this unfair and potentially devastating penalty once and for all.

Toward this end, I have been working with Senator HEITKAMP, along with Representatives CHARLES BOUSTANY and MIKE THOMPSON in the House, on bipartisan, bicameral legislation. Today, we are pleased to introduce this legislation.

This common sense legislation will permit small businesses to continue offering a benefit to their employees that many have provided for years—namely reimbursing their employees for the cost of health insurance purchased on the individual market.

According to the National Federation of Independent Business, around 18 percent of small businesses last year reimbursed employees or provided other financial support to workers who bought individual insurance plans. Many others responded that they would be interested in such an option. Our legislation ensures this option is, and continues to be, available by eliminating the potential for devastating penalties.

This legislation should be a no brainer for anyone who supports small business. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join in this effort.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BURR, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1698. A bill to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits; read the first time.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am introducing the Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act, which would exclude payments

from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits. My colleagues, Senator RICHARD BURR, Senator TOM CARPER, Senator TIM KAINE, and Senator MARK WARNER have agreed to cosponsor the bill. In addition, Congressman PATRICK MCHENRY will introduce a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

A dark chapter in American history, eugenics and compulsory sterilization laws were implemented in the first decades of the 20th century by more than 30 States, leading to the forced sterilization of more than 60,000 disabled citizens. Only California and Virginia sterilized more citizens than North Carolina under these laws, though North Carolina was considered as having the most aggressive State-run program.

In 2013, North Carolina became the first State in the country to enact legislation to compensate living victims of these forced-sterilization laws. Most of the victims of the State-run eugenics program were poor and disadvantaged individuals and many remain so to this day. Therefore, concerns have been raised in both States that the compensation provided to the victims could unintentionally render them ineligible under Federal law to continue receiving Federal benefits that are subject to income thresholds. The bill introduced today would specifically exclude all payments from any State eugenics compensation program from being used in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, any public benefits from the Federal government.

The implementation of State-run eugenics and sterilization programs represent a dark and shameful chapter in our Nation's history. While North Carolina and Virginia have recently created State compensation programs to help victims recover from horrible wrongs that have been perpetrated against them in the past, Federal laws can unintentionally punish victims who receive eugenics compensation by preventing them from receiving Federal benefits. This bipartisan legislation will ensure that will not happen.

I wish to offer a special, much deserved thank you to my friend and former colleague, North Carolina State representative Larry Womble, who has provided extraordinary leadership in the decades-long fight for justice for the living victims of North Carolina's eugenics program.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1699. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Oregon Wildlands Act to designate hundreds of miles of Oregon Rivers as Wild and Scenic, to protect thousands of acres of beautiful Oregon lands as National Recreation Areas, and to expand Wilderness for some of Oregon's most treasured areas.

Oregon is a unique State and Oregonians take pride in the many natural treasures throughout our diverse landscape. From the Oregon Coast to the high desert of Eastern Oregon, our State boasts some of the most beautiful scenery, varied ecosystems, and unmatched outdoor recreation opportunities in the nation. Protecting these lands and rivers ensures that they will be treasured for generations to come. Oregon's rivers and landscapes are also home to threatened and endangered species, old-growth trees, and delicate ecosystems that deserve the highest protections.

Enjoying the outdoors is in Oregonians' DNA—across the State, opportunities to get outside and enjoy Oregon's treasures bring in visitors from all over the world and make residents proud to call Oregon home. Protecting the lands and waters that support recreation is also an investment in our rural economies. In Oregon alone, the tourism industry employed more than 100,000 Oregonians during 2014 and generated $10.3 billion for the State's economy. Nationwide, outdoor recreation supports a $646 billion industry. Ensuring that visitors have pristine rivers to fish and float on, wilderness areas to hike in, and recreation areas to explore is a guaranteed way to make certain that visitors will return year after year.

All told, the bill designates approximately 118,000 acres of Recreation Areas, approximately 250 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and over 86,600 acres of Wilderness. Each area offers significant opportunities for recreation and ecosystem protections.

The protections in this bill highlight some of Oregon's most environmentally significant areas, such as Devil's Staircase near the Oregon Coast. Devil's Staircase is the epitome of Wilderness in Oregon—it is rugged, pristine, and remote, with hikers following elk and deer trails to navigate the rugged terrain. My bill would protect approximately 30,540 acres as wilderness and 14.6 miles of Wasson Creek and Franklin Creek, which run through the Devil's Staircase area as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Devil's Staircase is home to the most remarkable old-growth forest on Oregon's Coast Range, where giant Douglas-fir, cedar, and hemlock support threatened and endangered species habitat, such as marbled murrelets and Northern Spotted Owls.

My proposal would expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness by approximately 56,100 acres and include an additional 125 miles to the incomparable Wild and Scenic Rogue River. The Rogue is world-renowned as a premier recreation destination for rafting and fishing, with its free flowing waters starting at Oregon's Crater Lake National Park and emptying into the Pacific Ocean. Along the way, the Rogue River flows through a diverse landscape and its cold waters are the perfect habitat for salmon—the river is home to runs of Coho, spring and fall Chinook, and winter and summer Steelhead. By protecting the Rogue River and its tributaries we are protecting the fish and wildlife that depend on clean, healthy water. Additionally, the Wilderness expansion would protect the habitat for bald eagles, osprey, spotted owls, bear, elk, and cougars.

In addition, my proposal designates approximately 35.2 miles of the Elk River and 21.3 miles of the Molalla River as a new recreational, scenic, and wild rivers, and withdraws 19 miles of the Chetco River, one of the most endangered rivers in the country, from mineral development. By protecting hundreds of miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, as well as the lands that surround those rivers, my proposal ensures that important wildlife habitat can thrive, that Oregon's treasured recreation destinations remain scenic and pristine, and that Oregonians continue to have clean sources of drinking water.

I am pleased to be joined on this bill by my colleague from Oregon Senator JEFF MERKLEY who has worked closely with me over the years to protect Oregon's natural treasures.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 214—COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE, A PREEMINENT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND AN AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 214

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope is a leading international organization of women of Hellenic descent and of Philhellenes, that was founded on November 16, 1929 in San Francisco, California, to improve the status and well-being of women and their families and to provide women the opportunity to make significant contributions to their communities and country;

Whereas the mission of the Daughters of Penelope is to promote philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, good citizenship, family and individual excellence, and the ideals of ancient Greece, through community service and volunteerism;

Whereas Daughters of Penelope chapters sponsor affordable and dignified housing to the senior citizen population of the United States by participating in the supportive housing for the elderly program established under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

Whereas Penelope House, a domestic violence shelter for women and their children

sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope in Mobile, Alabama, is the first of its kind in the State of Alabama and is recognized as a model shelter for others to emulate throughout the United States;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope also sponsors Penelope's Place, a domestic violence shelter in Brockton, Massachusetts;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to libraries, schools, shelters, and churches through the Penelope's Books program;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope is the first ethnic organization to submit to the Library of Congress oral history tapes, which provide an oral history of first generation Greek American women in the United States;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope promotes awareness of and provides financial support to charitable organizations, including the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (formerly the Papanicolaou Cancer Center), the Alzheimer's Foundation, and the American Heart Association;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope also promotes awareness of and provides financial support to medical research for breast cancer and other cancers, Thalassemia (also known as Cooley's Anemia), Lymphangioleiomyomatosis, and Muscular Dystrophy;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope provides support and financial assistance to victims and communities affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and forest fires; and

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope has supported and contributed to organizations such as the Special Olympics, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Literacy, the Children's Wish Foundation, UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, St. Basil Academy, and countless other organizations that help families and communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Greek ancestry and of Philhellenes to the United States; and

(2) commemorates the 85th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope in 2015, applauds its mission, and commends the many charitable contributions of its members to organizations and communities worldwide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 215—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2015 AS ''NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH'' AND JUNE 27, 2015, AS ''NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY''

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 215

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the people of the United States, and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since the events of September 11, 2001, and have served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States have sustained a historically high operational tempo since September 11, 2001, with many members of the Armed Forces deploying overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as ''PTSD'');

Whereas men and women of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, remain at risk for PTSD and other mental health disorders;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) since October 2001, more than 390,000 of the approximately 1,160,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who have received health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs have been diagnosed with PTSD;

(2) in fiscal year 2014, more than 531,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans who sought care at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs received treatment for PTSD; and

(3) of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who are receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 615,000 have received a diagnosis for at least 1 mental health disorder;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas exposure to military trauma can lead to PTSD;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, suicide, homelessness, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of PTSD or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs—as well as the larger medical community, both private and public—have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of PTSD can help diminish the stigma attached to this mental health issue, and additional efforts are needed to find further ways to reduce this stigma—including an examination of how PTSD is discussed in the United States and a recognition that PTSD is a common injury that is treatable and repairable;

Whereas PTSD can result from any number of stressors other than combat, including rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, or natural disaster, and affects approximately 8,000,000 adults in the United States annually; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2015 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month'' and June 27, 2015 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day'';

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense—as well as the entire medical community—to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of PTSD;

(3) encourages commanders of the Armed Forces to support appropriate treatment of men and women of the Armed Forces who are diagnosed with PTSD; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

SENATE RESOLUTION 216—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2015 AS ''IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH'', A CELEBRATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN HAVE MADE IN SHAPING THE HISTORY, STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY, AND ENRICHING THE CULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 216

Whereas the United States has always been a nation of immigrants and throughout the history of the United States immigrants from around the globe and their children have—

(1) kept the workforce of the United States vibrant;

(2) kept the businesses of the United States on the cutting edge; and

(3) helped build the greatest economic engine in the world;

Whereas the entrepreneurial drive and spirit of the United States—

(1) is built on the diversity of the origins of the people of the United States;

(2) drew the first immigrants to the United States; and

(3) continues to drive business in the United States;

Whereas the success of the United States is a result of the many distinct experiences of the people of the United States, not in spite of those distinct experiences;

Whereas as a nation of immigrants, the people of the United States must remember the generations of pioneers that helped—

(1) lay railroads and build cities;

(2) develop new industries; and

(3) fuel the Information Age, from the telegraph to the smartphone;

Whereas more than 70 percent of agricultural workers in the United States are foreign born, and these workers keep California and farms in the United States in business and feed families in the United States;

Whereas immigrants start more than one-fourth of all new businesses in the United States and immigrants or their children start more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies;

Whereas those businesses collectively employ tens of millions of people in the United

States and generate more than $4,500,000,000,000 in annual revenue;

Whereas immigrants to the United States contribute greatly to advances in technology and sciences;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, 14 percent of employed college graduates and 50 percent of individuals with doctorate degrees working in mathematics and computer science occupations in the United States are immigrants;

Whereas between 2006 and 2012, 44 percent of new technology start-ups in Silicon Valley (widely known as the international hub for technological development and innovation) had at least 1 immigrant founder;

Whereas the work of immigrants has directly enriched the culture of the United States by influencing the performing arts (from Broadway to Hollywood), academia, art, music, literature, media, fashion, cuisine, customs, and cultural celebrations enjoyed across the United States;

Whereas generations of immigrants have come to the shores of the United States from all corners of the globe;

Whereas immigrants fought tirelessly in the Revolutionary War and continue to defend the ideals of the United States;

Whereas as of June 2015, more than 30,000 lawful permanent residents are serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas between 2002 and 2015, more than 102,000 men and women, including individuals serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, Germany, Japan, and elsewhere, have become United States citizens while wearing the uniform of the United States military;

Whereas Congress represents a rich diversity of communities across the United States and works closely with diaspora leaders from more than 60 ethnic caucuses to ensure that the voices of people of the United States of all backgrounds are heard; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the universal promise that all people are created equal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes June 2015 as ''Immigrant Heritage Month'' in honor of the accomplishments and contributions of immigrants and their children in shaping the history and culture of the United States;

(2) pledges to celebrate immigrant contributions to, and immigrant heritage in, each State; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the history of immigrants in the United States and to always remember the immigrant roots of the United States.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution on Immigrant Heritage Month, which is recognized every June. This resolution honors the accomplishments and contributions of immigrants, pledges to celebrate our immigrant heritage, and joins the American people in commemorating our immigrant roots.

Since our founding, the United States has been a nation of immigrants. Immigrants from all over the world have sought to start anew in the United States. Whether they were seeking to practice their religious and political beliefs without interference or obtain new professional or educational opportunities, the United States has been a refuge for those seeking a better life.

We have benefited tremendously as a result. Immigrants have played a vital role in our Nation's history, shaping the economic, cultural, and social development of our society. Immigrants have helped build our nation's cities and railroads, developed some of our most cutting-edge businesses, and fueled inventions from the telegraph to the smartphone.

Individuals and families from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Americas have all contributed to our Nation's fabric, enhancing the diversity and vibrancy of our communities and forming the melting pot for which our country is known.

In addition, immigrants have defended our Nation since the Revolutionary War. As of this month, over 30,000 lawful permanent residents are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. I imagine many more immigrants would join as well if they were afforded the opportunity. Between 2002 and 2015, more than 102,000 immigrants have become U.S. citizens while serving in the U.S. Military in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Japan, and elsewhere.

Our Nation's food supply also depends upon the work of immigrants. Over 70 percent of agricultural workers in the U.S. are foreign born. These workers help feed American families and support U.S. farms and businesses. Without their help, we would struggle to harvest our Nation's crops and feed our people.

Immigrants also have made impressive contributions in business and technology. Immigrants or children-of-immigrants have started more than 25 percent of all new businesses in the U.S., including more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies. These businesses have created tens of millions of American jobs, and they exceed over $4.5 trillion in revenue annually. In Silicon Valley, over 44 percent of technology startups had at least one immigrant founder between 2006 and 2012.

One of our country's greatest exports, our culture, has been enhanced by immigrants from all corners of the globe. From Broadway to Hollywood, our country's unique contributions in the performing arts, art, music, literature, media, fashion, and cuisine have been shaped by immigrants.

I urge my colleagues to join me in observing Immigrant Heritage Month to recognize the contributions of immigrants to the United States, as well as our nation's strong immigrant heritage.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2077. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 230, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2077. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 230, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall convey to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska (referred to in this Act as the ''Corporation''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in section 2 for use in connection with health and social services programs.

(b) EFFECT ON ANY QUITCLAIM DEED.—The conveyance by the Secretary of title by warranty deed under this section shall, on the effective date of the conveyance, supersede and render of no future effect any quitclaim deed to the property described in section 2 executed by the Secretary and the Corporation.

(c) CONDITIONS.—The conveyance of the property under this Act—

(1) shall be made by warranty deed; and

(2) shall not—

(A) require any consideration from the Corporation for the property;

(B) impose any obligation, term, or condition on the Corporation; or

(C) allow for any reversionary interest of the United States in the property.

SEC. 2. PROPERTY DESCRIBED.

The property, including all land and appurtenances, described in this section is the property included in U.S. Survey No. 4000, Lot 2, T. 8 N., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, containing 22.98 acres.

SEC. 3. ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY.

(a) LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Corporation shall not be liable for any soil, surface water, groundwater, or other contamination resulting from the disposal, release, or presence of any environmental contamination on any portion of the property described in section 2 on or before the date on which the property is conveyed to the Corporation.

(2) ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.—An environmental contamination described in paragraph (1) includes any oil or petroleum products, hazardous substances, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, pollutants, toxic substances, solid waste, or any other environmental contamination or hazard as defined in any Federal or State of Alaska law.

(b) EASEMENT.—The Secretary shall be accorded any easement or access to the property conveyed under this Act as may be reasonably necessary to satisfy any retained obligation or liability of the Secretary.

(c) NOTICE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACTIVITY AND WARRANTY.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary shall comply with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 120(h)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–G50 of the

Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Country of Origin Labeling and Trade Retaliation: What's at stake for America's Farmers, Ranchers, Businesses, and Consumers.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Unlocking the Private Sector: State Innovations in Financing Infrastructure.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Evaluating Key Components of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Under Attack: Federal Cybersecurity and the OPM Data Breach.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in SR–428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Opening Doors to Economic Opportunity for Our Veterans and Their Families Through Entrepreneurship.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Economic Crisis: The Global Impact of a Greek Default.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the day: Jenna Dreydoppel, Tasha Boyer, Denae Benson, Claire Landis, Holly O'Brien, Kelsey Colligan, Jasper MacNaughton, Justin Dahlgren, Grant Ackerman, Anthony Lekanof, Anna Dietderich, and Tavish Logan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Valerie Williams, a fellow in Senator PATTY MURRAY's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BOYS TOWN CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 893, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 893) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 893) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO THE YUKON KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 78, S. 230.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 230) to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Murkowski amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2077) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall convey to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska (referred to in this Act as the ''Corporation''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in section 2 for use in connection with health and social services programs.

(b) EFFECT ON ANY QUITCLAIM DEED.—The conveyance by the Secretary of title by warranty deed under this section shall, on the effective date of the conveyance, supersede and render of no future effect any quitclaim deed to the property described in section 2 executed by the Secretary and the Corporation.

(c) CONDITIONS.—The conveyance of the property under this Act—

(1) shall be made by warranty deed; and

(2) shall not—

(A) require any consideration from the Corporation for the property;

(B) impose any obligation, term, or condition on the Corporation; or

(C) allow for any reversionary interest of the United States in the property.

SEC. 2. PROPERTY DESCRIBED.

The property, including all land and appurtenances, described in this section is the property included in U.S. Survey No. 4000, Lot 2, T. 8 N., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, containing 22.98 acres.

SEC. 3. ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY.

(a) LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Corporation shall not be liable for any soil, surface water, groundwater, or other contamination resulting from the disposal, release, or presence of any environmental contamination on any portion of the property described in section 2 on or before the date on which the property is conveyed to the Corporation.

(2) ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.—An environmental contamination described in paragraph (1) includes any oil or petroleum products, hazardous substances, hazardous

materials, hazardous waste, pollutants, toxic substances, solid waste, or any other environmental contamination or hazard as defined in any Federal or State of Alaska law.

(b) EASEMENT.—The Secretary shall be accorded any easement or access to the property conveyed under this Act as may be reasonably necessary to satisfy any retained obligation or liability of the Secretary.

(c) NOTICE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACTIVITY AND WARRANTY.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary shall comply with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 120(h)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)).

The bill (S. 230), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH AND NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 215, submitted earlier today.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 215) designating the month of June 2015 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month'' and June 27, 2015, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. 215) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1698

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1698) to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the junior Senator from Arkansas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015, THROUGH TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the following dates and times to convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted; further, that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session, unless the House adopts the provisions of S. Con. Res. 19: Friday, June 26, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, June 30, at 2 p.m.; Friday, July 3, at 10 a.m.; further, that the Senate adjourn on July 3, until 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1177, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 2:51 p.m., conditionally adjourned until Friday, June 26, 2015, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2042) to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation which would significantly exacerbate climate change by gutting the President's plan to cut carbon emissions from power plants.

My home state of California is currently experiencing the worst drought in its history, and scientists say it is made more severe because of the warming climate in California. High temperatures have caused record low levels of mountain snowpack and water evaporation in reservoirs, rivers, and soil. This means mandatory water cuts, fallowed fields, and higher risk of wildfires as we move into the heart of the dry season. With continued increases in global temperatures due to carbon emissions, droughts like California's will become even more common across the country.

These extreme drought and wildfire conditions are not unique to California. States across the west including Oklahoma, Nevada, Utah, and Oregon are experiencing ''extreme'' or ''exceptional'' drought conditions, according to the USDA. This is a crisis across the West and scientists tell us that it will be more common as man-made carbon emissions continue to warm the planet.

The costs of failing to address climate change grow with every year that we fail to take action. In 2012 alone, climate-related disasters including drought, wildfires, and severe weather including Hurricane Sandy, cost the economy over $100 billion. That works out to a $300 tax on every American, and it will continue to increase as severe weather becomes more common and sea levels continue to rise. On top of those disasters, the White House Council on Economic Advisers calculated that failing to meet our climate goals will cost the U.S. $150 billion per year in reduced economic output, and each decade of ignoring climate change increases the costs of mitigation by 40 percent.

In the absence of Congressional action to address climate change, the Administration is taking strong action which I support. But the bill before us today would allow the Clean Power Plan to be blocked indefinitely and would set a dangerous precedent of allowing states to opt out of national air quality standards. The Supreme Court has upheld the authority of the EPA to regulate carbon emissions on three separate occasions since 2007, yet this bill would allow lawsuits to permanently delay the Clean Power Plan. The bill also removes the federal backstop that has made the Clean Air Act one of the most successful environmental laws in our nation's history, cutting harmful air pollution by 90 percent since its passage in 1970.

Under the premise of protecting ratepayers, who will actually see their bills go down under the Clean Power Plan, this legislation is a major step backward for our country's efforts to fight climate change.

I urge the rejection of this legislation.

HONORING MR. EDWARD LEYDEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Edward Leyden for his 33 years of outstanding service to Bishop Lynch High School and his community.

Mr. Leyden was hired in 1982 as the school's first lay president during a time of transition and uncertainty with a struggling school enrollment. Mr. Leyden immediately began working to make the school a better place, and he hasn't stopped since.

Thanks to Mr. Leyden's years of hard work and dedication, the school's student population has more than doubled in size and the campus has undergone numerous expansion and improvement projects. Shortly after Mr. Leyden's arrival, the school received the first of two National Blue Ribbon Awards—an honor given by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize schools of exemplary academic achievement. While he points to the prestigious award for the school's success, many believe the credit goes to Mr. Leyden's leadership and open door policy.

Under Mr. Leyden's leadership, the school—once primarily attended by East Dallas pupils—now has students from all parts of the city—from Frisco to Plano and Oak Cliff to Northwest Dallas. A performing arts center was built, science wing, arts and athletics complex, and other renovation projects all have come to completion thanks to Mr. Leyden's vision and dedication to making Bishop Lynch an exemplary place for students to learn.

Mr. Leyden has achieved much in his life. A graduate of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas and Barry University in Miami, Florida, he was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Dallas in 2006; was the Catholic Foundation Award honoree in 2015; received the Bishop Lynch JFK award for service; is a member of St. Edward's University Board of Trustees and the advisory committee for Ferguson Road Initiative. He has been in Catholic education for more than 50 years and has presided over 33 graduation ceremonies, but if you ask Mr. Leyden what he considers his greatest accomplishment, he will say that he is leaving the school a better place than he found it.

This month, Mr. Leyden will retire from his career in education. While his time as an educator has come to an end, the results of his hard work will no doubt continue to be seen for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Mr. Edward Leyden for his devotion to education and for helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country.

RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2042) to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this attempt to weaken our first real shot at reducing the harmful carbon pollution that is contributing to global climate change and endangering our communities.

Last month was the hottest May on record. Last year was the hottest year. We've already seen extreme weather events across the globe—from unprecedented flooding in Texas to deadly drought in India. This is not a coincidence. It is not a fluke. It is a real trend identified by ninety-seven percent of climate scientists worldwide. And it requires our urgent action to protect our constituents and our environment.

It is past time. And when skeptics in this Congress refused to acknowledge reality and refused to take any steps to prevent disaster, the President used his authority under the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon emissions, which are a leading contributor to climate change. His proposed Clean Power Plan is a flexible framework for states to cut carbon pollution from power plants for the first time. It's a plan that sets goals, provides options, and lets states figure out what works best for them.

But today we are considering a bill that would undermine the very structure of the Clean Air Act. Currently, when states refuse or fail to fulfill their obligations to reduce pollution under the Clean Air Act, the federal government has the obligation to step in to put forward a plan that would meet the law's requirements. This federal backstop is a critical part of our nation's environmental laws. Today's legislation would allow states to ''opt out'' of a federal plan, giving them the authority to ignore their responsibility to comply with the rule

and leaving their residents without protection from carbon pollution.

Moreover, we are considering this bill before the Clean Power Plan is even finalized. The EPA is in the process of considering input from many states to refine the proposal before putting forward a final rule. This bill would simply delay efforts to reduce air pollution.

Mr. Speaker, just last week the Pope called on all of us to live up to our moral responsibility to act on climate change to protect our communities, our environment, and the most vulnerable among us. We should heed that call, reject this bad bill, and work together to prevent the most damaging impacts of climate change.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey.

For a whole century, this organization has provided assistance and opportunity to a wide host of thankful recipients in the New York and northern New Jersey area.

Founded on February 13, 1915 in a Brooklyn suburb by two clergymen, the first Goodwill in New York began the task of providing assistance to persons with disabilities and disadvantages so they could achieve a level of self-sufficiency. From this humble start, people requesting assistance earned a living through the collection and sale of donated clothing and other goods. It wasn't long before the success of the Brooklyn Goodwill spread to other communities.

Years later, in 1922, St. Paul's Community House founded its own Goodwill in Jersey City, New Jersey. In 1962 the Goodwill in Brooklyn merged with its Jersey City cousin to form Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey Inc.

The success from that early Brooklyn store is how the organization gained its current name. Goodwill Industries International is composed of 165 agencies in the United States, Canada, and fourteen affiliates abroad. Goodwill's mission is to "empower individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment to gain independence through the power of work," and they certainly have acted on that directive. In 2014 alone, the organization served 95,000 persons in need and connected approximately 8,500 with jobs. Aside from providing job services to persons with disabilities, immigrants, and war veterans, Goodwill also provides free afterschool programs in a bid to assist in the proper education and direction of our nation's young people.

Goodwill has also dedicated their efforts towards assisting those afflicted by two major disasters in recent memory. After the events of 9/11, Goodwill organized an emergency employment initiative to assist those whose families had been effected by the terrible events of that day, offering over 70 programs aimed at retail training and rehabilitation through 42 Goodwill stores across New York and New Jersey.

In the wake of the destruction of Hurricane Sandy, Goodwill gave back to the community by organizing the distribution of crucially needed donated goods, as well as supporting communities in the afflicted areas by partnering with local businesses. Even today, Goodwill continues to work with state officials in providing donated goods for those still struggling to recover from the storm.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Goodwill Industries and congratulating them on their 100th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a special Iowa church congregation from Imogene, Iowa. St. Patrick Catholic Church will be celebrating the centennial of their building on July 11, 2015.

Founded first in 1880, the third St. Patrick Catholic Church building was established August 1915. Since that time, and long before, congregations of Iowans have been worshipping at St. Patrick's. Still to this day it remains one of the bedrock institutions of this small Iowa town.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate the members of St. Patrick's for their many years of faithful attendance and service to God. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating St. Patrick's and wishing them, their pastor, Reverend Tom Kunnel, Bishop Richard Pates, and the community of Imogene nothing but joy in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 376 I was absent due to travel for personal reasons and in connection with my official duties.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

TRIBUTE TO RON DICKERSON

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Dickerson on his retirement from Nucor Steel Indiana after 27 years with the company.

As a student at Wabash College, I can remember the steel mill being built and the excitement it brought to the community as they moved closer to production. Like Wabash College, Nucor Steel Indiana calls the Fourth District's Crawfordsville home. Ron has been with Nucor Steel Indiana from the beginning when he was hired as a frontline worker in the hot rolling mill. He worked his way up to the top job, serving as Vice President and General Manager of the mill for the past 13 years.

As a native of Crawfordsville, Ron understands as well as anyone the positive impact the mill has had on the city of 16,000. Nucor Steel Indiana is a major employer, providing high-paying jobs and supporting the work of nonprofit organizations in the community. Nucor's culture emphasizes the importance of its teammates and Ron embodies that culture.

Nucor Steel Indiana has enjoyed great success under Ron's leadership, but he would be the first to tell you that success is the result of the hard work of Nucor's 742 teammates in Crawfordsville. For Ron, nothing is more important than the men and women who work at the mill.

I have known Ron for a number of years, and have always been impressed with his work ethic and desire to succeed. We have a shared love for classic cars, and his 1970 Ford Mustang Mach 1 embodies that American desire and work ethic. I have always valued Ron's counsel and appreciate his friendship and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Ron Dickerson for his outstanding career in the steel industry and his commitment to the community of Crawfordsville. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING DR. LINDA HENRIE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Linda Henrie, Superintendent of Mesquite Independent School District, who is retiring after 43 years of service. Dr. Henrie has been an invaluable asset to the students, teachers, and community of Mesquite, and will be sorely missed.

Dr. Henrie leaves behind a legacy of leadership that started in the 1980s when she began shattering glass ceilings. She began her career with Mesquite ISD as a business teacher at Mesquite High School and became president of the Mesquite Education Association. In the fall of 1986, Dr. Henrie became one of the first women to be appointed to a secondary administration position in the district.

Dr. Henrie has served MISD in a variety of positions throughout her long and successful career. She spent 15 years in administrative positions and four years as deputy superintendent prior to assuming the role of superintendent in 2005. In addition to her official job description, she has also been a cheerleader for many athletic events, a patron of countless school plays and shows and an overall supporter to everyone in MISD.

Thanks to her fiscal savvy and wise stewardship of limited resources, the school district was able to succeed and even reach new accomplishments in recent years. She found a way to avoid job cuts and often reminded her hard-working staff—in both word and by example—that they were charged with giving the

taxpayers a good return on investment at MISD.

While overseeing the 46-campus MISD, Dr. Henrie has somehow found time to be involved in other professional groups and organizations. The Texas Association of School Administrators, Mesquite Education Association, Texas Staff Development Council, Texas ASCD, UIL Legislative Council, and the National Federation of State High School Associations and Equity Center have all benefitted from Dr. Henrie's wisdom and leadership.

During her tenure, MISD was a recognized district in 2010 and 2011, received the Texas Award for Performance Excellence from Quality Texas, gained membership in the Comptroller's Gold Leadership Circle, and was a large-district finalist in the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards for three consecutive years. MISD is also one of only 11 public school districts to earn the highest rating of five stars on the Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST) for three consecutive years.

Dr. Henrie received personal recognition as the recipient of Mesquite Social Services' Women in Service and Enterprise Award, Texas ASCD's Brownlee Leadership Award, the ATPE's 2011 Administrator Educator of the Year honor, and City of Mesquite Pillar of the Community Award.

This year Dr. Henrie will retire. Though her time as an educator has come to an end, the results of her hard work will no doubt continue to be seen for generations to come. While she may be giving up the title of superintendent, I have no doubt her role as one of MISD's biggest fans will continue.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Dr. Linda Henrie for her devotion to education and for helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country.

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, an opportunity to raise awareness and continue a national conversation about this debilitating disease, which is the nation's sixth leading cause of death.

Worldwide, there are 47 million people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and without a change, these numbers are expected to grow to 76 million by 2030. Not only will this affect individuals and families with an unmeasurable toll of physical and emotional pain, it will also cost our entire economy and health care system billions. Just this year alone, the disease is estimated to cost us $226 billion.

Even more concerning, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that Alzheimer's disease is not treatable and its progression cannot be slowed down. However, I am encouraged by the important work that researchers are doing at the National Institute of Health regarding this deadly disease. Furthermore, I am glad that my colleagues and I in the House came together in a responsible and bi-partisan manner to not only increase funding to $31.2 billion for the NIH ($1.1 billion above fiscal year 2015 and $100 million above the President's request); but within that allocation provided $886 million for the Alzheimer's disease research initiative, a $300 million increase. I am hopeful that these research dollars will go a long way to treating, and ultimately curing this disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONEY POT VOLUNTEER ACTIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of The Honey Pot Volunteer Active Fire Department in Honey Pot, Pennsylvania, which continually works to ensure public safety within my congressional district. Out of seven fire departments in the City of Nanticoke, it is the only independent station supported solely from fundraisers and the State fire grant.

After a devastating fire consumed three houses, a group of Honey Pot residents chartered the department in April of 1965. Under the leadership of the department's first chief, Theadore Zdiarski, the organization raised sufficient funds to purchase a $32,000 1965 FWD pumper through the sale of rags, metals, and other miscellaneous items; an impressive feat in and of itself.

Throughout the years, the department has responded to calls in neighboring municipalities such as Nanticoke, Wilkes Barre, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Shickshinny, and Dupont; service that has greatly enhanced public safety across Northeastern Pennsylvania. In 1992, the company created a junior firefighter program. In doing so, the company not only successfully increased their membership, but also engaged with local youths.

In addition to their stellar record of public service, the company has repeatedly used fundraising efforts as a way to positively influence the community. For example, when the department needed to replace its aged pumper truck in 2000, the members organized a ''cabbage roll,'' a fundraiser where participants compete in rolling heads of cabbage down a hill. The cabbage roll made local headlines across Northeastern Pennsylvania, and such an event is testament to the integral role the company plays in the local community outside of the fire station.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize The Honey Pot Volunteer Active Fire Department as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank the department and its members for their tireless service and unwavering commitment to increasing public safety.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. DUANE M. FORD

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the career of Dr. Duane M. Ford, President of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. He served as the fifth president of the College for the past four years.

Dr. Ford grew up on a family farm outside of Tonica, Illinois. He spent much of his childhood doing chores and helping out with the farm work. He eventually went on to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy with Highest and University Honors in 1977. After farming with his father and brother for two years, he studied at Iowa State University, where he received an M.S. and a Ph.D. He then served as a Post-Doctorate Fellow in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In 1986, he began his career in teaching and academic leadership at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, where he first discovered his passion for teaching. While at Truman State, he served as Convener of the Agricultural Science Discipline, as Associate Division Head for the Division of Science, received a fellowship in the W.K. Kellogg National Leadership Program (1991–1994), and studied for a sabbatical year at the Center for Biotechnology Policy and Ethics at Texas A&M University (1993–1994). In 1996, Dr. Ford became the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. From 1999–2011 he was Dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he also served as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor before becoming President of Southwest Tech in 2011.

Under President Ford's leadership, Southwest Tech has become a premiere place for high-quality, affordable education and training. Dr. Ford has a strong relationship with businesses in the area, and he has adapted the curriculum to reflect the needs of the nearly 12,000 students per year attending Southwest Tech. Throughout his career, he has stayed true to his Midwest roots. He was a creative thinker and tireless advocate for education. I personally have enjoyed working with Duane, first at UW-Platteville, then as President of Southwest Tech, where his pursuit of quality educational opportunities for his students was inspirational. He will be missed.

Duane and his wife Sheri currently live in Platteville, Wisconsin. They have two adult children, Hollie and Simon, a grandson, Matt, and a cat named Dusty. In his retirement, Duane looks forward to pursuing his hobbies of running, bicycling, baking and disc golf. Dr. Ford will continue to serve on the Board of Directors for Southwest Health Center.

IN HONOR OF HUGO TOTTINO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the agricultural and public service career of a great American. Mr. Hugo Tottino is being honored this month by the Grower Shipper Association of Central California with the E.E. Gene Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement in Central Coast Agriculture. Known to many as the ''Artichoke King'' and to his friends and family at Ocean Mist Farms as

simply Hugo, he is one of the pioneers of modern agriculture on the Central Coast. So while you may have never heard of him, I can guarantee that every member of this House has eaten something grown by Hugo and his family.

Hugo's lifelong love and passion for farming undoubtedly began while working closely with his father on the family farm while growing up. Upon graduation from Salinas High in 1944, Hugo gave up a Saint Mary's College football scholarship to enlist in the Navy. After returning home to Castroville in 1946, Hugo joined California Artichoke and Vegetable Growers Corporation now known as Ocean Mist Farms. Once at work, Hugo turned his boundless energy toward helping to grow this family owned business into the dynamic industry leader that it is today. His signature work ethic is well known. He still drives to the office six days a week. And his leadership has extended beyond Ocean Mist Farms to the broader agricultural community. Hugo has been instrumental in championing the development of the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project, helping to slow the rate of sea water intrusion into fresh water aquifers. He helped rally support to utilize alternative sources of water to save thousands of crop acres, and has been actively involved in the efforts of soil conservation and water reclamation.

Hugo also turned his passion towards family and community. In 1951, Hugo married the love of his life, Doris Bei from Santa Cruz. Together they raised five children: Michele, Les, Karen, Cathy, David and are the loving grandparents of Amy, Brian, Katie, Jeff, Kevin, Sarah, Lisa, Glen, and Mary. He and Doris have also been active leaders or contributors to numerous community endeavors, including Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, the Monterey County Food Bank, Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church, the Ausonio Library, and North Monterey County High School, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak on behalf of the entire House in thanking Mr. Tottino for his decades of service to this nation and its agriculture industry. I wish him nothing but success wherever this next chapter of life takes him, and we are proud that he calls Castroville and California's Central Coast his home.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR. RICHARD A. MARSICO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Richard A. Marsico who passed away on June 6th, 2015. Richard was born to his loving parents Anthony and Mary Marsico on October 5th, 1934. Mr. Marsico was raised on the south side of Youngstown, Ohio. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1953 and was inducted into the Woodrow Wilson Hall of Fame for his successful high school football career. Richard later graduated from the Ohio State University in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering.

Richard was later commissioned second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1958 and obtained the rank of captain during his service. He was honorably discharged in 1969. Mr. Marsico continued to work in the field of engineering with Engelhardt & Associates until 1968 when he formed his own firm, Richard A. Marsico & Associates. His firm helped expand prominent businesses, like General Motors and Packard Electric Plants which made our community more economically prosperous. Richard used his talents to contribute to the growth and prosperity of Youngstown by serving as the director of public works, the city engineer, as well as the chief building official and plan examiner. In 1997, he was elected to the office of Mahoning County Engineer and served for four terms. He also served as the president of the County Engineers Association of Ohio, and won the Mahoning County Township Association's ''Excellence in Service'' Award.

Richard was very hardworking and dedicated; he achieved many successes and was well-respected among his colleagues and throughout the community. On June 19, 1954 Richard married his high school sweetheart Shirlee Eckerle. After Shirlee's passing, Richard married Patricia DePizzo-Como on July 27, 2007. Richard is preceded in death by parents Anthony and Mary Marsico; wife, Shirlee; and his son Richard Phillip Marsico. He leaves behind his wife Patricia; sons, Martin and David; daughter-in-law, Nita; stepchildren, Michelle and Bryan; his wonderful grandchildren; and great-granddaughter, Mia. He is also survived by his brother, Dr. Robert Marsico and numerous nieces and nephews. Richard will be remembered for being a noble man of valor as well as for his professional accomplishments. I extend my condolences to his entire family. Our community is a better place to call home due to his great contributions and he will be dearly missed.

THE MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONGRATULATING QUICKEN LOANS ON 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues Reps. JOHN CONYERS, CANDICE MILLER, JOHN MOOLENAAR, BRENDA LAWRENCE, MIKE BISHOP, DAN BENISHEK, TIM WALBERG, DAVID TROTT, DEBBIE DINGELL, FRED UPTON, DAN KILDEE, and SANDER LEVIN, to congratulate Quicken Loans Inc. on its 30th year in business and recognize its pivotal role in revitalizing Detroit as well as its impact on Michigan's economy. Quicken Loans has helped more than 2 million American families achieve their dream of home ownership.

Originally founded as Rock Financial in 1985 by Detroit native Dan Gilbert, Quicken Loans Inc. has grown to become America's largest online lender and the 2nd largest lender in the United States. From 2013–2014 alone, Quicken closed $140 billion of mortgage volume across all 50 states.

As the largest FHA lender, Quicken has helped lower income Americans borrow money for the purchase of a home that they would likely otherwise not have been able to afford. Quicken Loans' commitment to its customers is commendable, as Quicken has maintained the best loan quality score and lowest default rate among the largest 30 FHA lenders.

Because of its commitment to its customers, Quicken Loans Inc. has been awarded the J.D. Power awards for Highest in Customer Satisfaction for Primary Mortgage Origination for five straight years, their award for Highest in Customer Satisfaction among home loan servicers in 2014, and their award for Customer Service Champion—making Quicken Loans Inc. one of only 40 companies in the United States to receive this prestigious award.

Over the past 30 years, Quicken has taken civic engagement to a new level by establishing itself as a leader and innovator in community engagement by developing a culture that encourages its 12,000 team members to volunteer in communities surrounding Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; North Scottsdale, Arizona; San Diego, California, and Charlotte, North Carolina, where the team members work and live.

Last year alone, Quicken Loans Inc. donated more than $16 million to local charities and its team members volunteered over 75,000 hours to charity work including: assisting local veterans, community development, and helping in the downtown revitalization process in Detroit. It's for reasons like these that Quicken has ranked in the Top 30 of FORTUNE Magazine's Best Places to Work in America for 12 years.

The leadership of Quicken Loans Inc. in restoring Detroit cannot be understated.

On December 3, 2013, the City of Detroit was declared bankrupt. Since that time, Quicken Loans Inc. founder and Chairman Dan Gilbert was named co-chair of the Blight Removal Task Force which continues to focus on the revitalization of Detroit through the removal of all blighted structures and lots within the city. Additionally, Mr. Gilbert serves as Vice Chairman of the M–1 RAIL initiative which began construction in July 2014. The 6.6 mile light rail system is designed to spur economic development and improve downtown and midtown Detroit's transportation infrastructure.

As of midnight on December 11, 2014, Detroit successfully left Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy. This transition would not have been possible without key players, one of which was Quicken Loans Inc., and their commitment to Michigan and the city of Detroit.

Congratulations to Quicken Loans Inc. on your 30th anniversary and thank you for leading by example in communities here in Michigan and across the nation.

HONORING LOCAL VETERAN EDWARD HENDERSON

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Vietnam War veteran from Rochester Hills, Michigan, Mr. Edward Henderson.

Mr. Henderson spent several years in Thailand and Vietnam during the late 1960's and early 1970's. He served with the U.S. Army

Security Agency, and until just recently, his mission remained confidential.

As his new Congressman, Mr. Henderson recently contacted my office to request his military records. During the process, the U.S. Army notified us that he was entitled to six awards earned during his time overseas nearly 50 years ago.

It's shocking to think veterans, like Edward Henderson, can go so long without recognition for their service. We must right this wrong.

Selfless veterans like Edward Henderson don't "win" medals. They earn them. They put their lives on the line to protect us and our freedom. And our Vietnam veterans went through hell and back to defend America and our allies.

That's why when they return, it's our responsibility to honor and fight for them here at home.

Leaving the battlefield does not mean their battles are done. So as a nation, we must do more to support and reach out to our veterans.

We have a duty to do whatever we can to serve and honor our American heroes. Not just today, but every day.

So thank you—to Ed, his wife Martha, and his family and friends. We owe him more than just medals, but a lifetime of gratitude.

CONGRATULATING ILLINOIS AUDITOR GENERAL WILLIAM G. HOLLAND ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William G. Holland on his retirement from serving as Illinois Auditor General. Mr. Holland's almost 25 years of service have illustrated his persistent dedication to the State of Illinois.

The Illinois General Assembly has appointed Mr. Holland as Auditor General for an unprecedented three 10-year terms. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently maintained stability during some of our state's most turbulent times. His career embodies true public service, and he has been a role model for many other public servants, including myself.

I have known Mr. Holland for more than 30 years and had the privilege to serve as an intern when he was the Chief of Staff to the Illinois Senate President. I have seen first-hand that regardless of who or what party is in power, he has always upheld the important values of fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Holland for his longstanding commitment to good government in the State of Illinois, and I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement.

TSCA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, our country's federal toxic chemicals regulation has been broken for decades. Since Congress first passed the Toxic Substances Control Act in 1976, the EPA has placed restrictions on only five of the estimated 60,000 chemicals in commerce, and since the EPA's ban on asbestos was overturned in 1991, zero chemicals have been regulated. This law is in dire need of reform.

While toxic chemicals regulations have floundered for decades at the federal level, California and several other states have passed important laws to protect communities and notify consumers. These state laws, including California's landmark Proposition 65, have motivated many companies to reduce or eliminate toxic chemicals from their products.

It was with these state laws in mind that I offered an amendment at the Energy & Commerce Committee markup of this legislation to clarify its impact on state laws. My amendment was based on the recommendations of 12 State Attorneys General who wrote to the Committee: California, New York, Massachusetts, Washington, Iowa, Oregon, Maryland, Vermont, Hawaii, Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

I'm pleased that the final version of the bill before us today, as well as the Committee Report on the bill and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, addresses several of the issues I raised along with the 12 Attorneys General who wrote to the Committee with their concerns.

First, the final text of the bill includes my amendment's clarification to ensure states can continue to enforce existing laws unless specifically preempted. Without this change, the bill could have been interpreted to only grandfather ongoing enforcement actions, rather than all existing state laws and regulations.

Second, the sponsor of the bill, my good friend Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois, clarified in a colloquy with me that no existing state laws or requirements will be preempted by this bill unless they actually conflict with federal requirements. Mr. SHIMKUS also confirmed on the Record that the bill is not intended to interfere with the operation of Proposition 65 or the ability of the State of California or private citizens to enforce that landmark law.

Third, the multi-state Attorney General letter called for further clarification that the bill is not intended to preempt state monitoring, information reporting, and disclosure laws. These important laws help keep regulators and communities informed about the presence of toxic chemicals. I'm pleased that the Committee Report states that "the Committee expects that these type of requirements would generally fall outside the scope of preemption."

With these important changes and clarifications, the preemption and savings provisions in the TSCA Modernization Act are substantially improved and I appreciate the willingness of Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS to make these improvements to the bill.

The TSCA law is long overdue for reform and with the above changes included in the TSCA Modernization Act, I support it and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING DAVID L. DIEDRICH FOR 40 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING MILITARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David L. Diedrich, a resident of Altoona, for his heroic efforts and selfless service to his country and community over the past 40 years.

Mr. Diedrich served in the United States Army for 20 years after attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in the top ten percent of the class of 1976. For his subsequent exemplary military service in Hawaii, Detroit, and Germany, Mr. Diedrich was awarded the Army Meritorious Service Medal three times and the Army Commendation Medal twice.

After attaining a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and returning to West Point as a career counselor and instructor, Mr. Diedrich became the City Engineer and the Director of Public Works for the City of Altoona, where he oversaw the public works of the entire city. In addition to this role, Mr. Diedrich has served the local community as a member of the Improved Dwellings of Altoona Board of Directors, through his church, and as a mentor to area students interested in the United States Military Academy.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Diedrich, one of our nation's many heroes, and congratulate him for his decades of dedicated service to our country and his local community.

CARE ACT OF 2015

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, we observed International Day Against Child Labor. This is the day set aside to remind us of the plight of hundreds of millions of children throughout the world who are engaged in dangerous work that often deprives them of obtaining adequate education, health and decent living conditions.

Unconscionably, hundreds of thousands of these children live right here in the United States. These children work long hours and under dangerous conditions in our nation's agricultural industry.

This industry has a fatality rate nearly 8 times the national average, yet our labor laws do not protect children in agriculture in the same way they protect children in every other industry.

The impact of our permissive child labor laws is most evident in our tobacco fields. Human Rights Watch recently issued a study that found children as young as twelve suffering from nausea, vomiting, headaches and dizziness, all symptoms of acute nicotine poisoning, likely contracted by absorbing nicotine through their skin while harvesting tobacco plants.

Many of these children say they work long hours without overtime pay, often in extreme

heat, without sufficient breaks, or adequate protective gear.

These hazards have led countries like Russia and Kazakhstan to restrict tobacco harvesting to adults, but no such protections exist for children in the United States.

The time has come for the United States of America to bring child labor laws in line with our American values and give all of our children the fundamental protections they need and rightfully deserve.

That is why I am once again re-introducing the Children's Act for Responsible Employment, better known as the CARE Act.

While retaining current exemptions for family farms and agricultural education programs like 4-H and Future Farmers of America, the CARE Act raises labor standards and protections for farm worker children to the same level set for children in all other occupations.

Specifically the CARE ACT ends our country's double standard that allows children in agriculture to work at younger ages and for longer hours than those working in all other industries.

It raises the minimum age for agricultural work to 14 and restricts children under 16 from work that interferes with their education or endangers their health and well-being.

The CARE Act also prohibits children under the age of 18 from working in agricultural jobs which the Department of Labor has declared as particularly hazardous. This is consistent with current law governing every industry outside of agriculture.

No child should be discriminated against based on the work they do. All of America's children deserve to be protected equally under our laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to do everything in our power to protect the rights, safety and educational future of our most precious resource—America's children, and I urge my colleagues to support the CARE Act.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES C. HODGES

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel James C. Hodges of the United States Air Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation as the Commander at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey. Colonel Hodges is leaving his position at the Joint Base and transitioning to a new role.

Today, the Joint Base stands as a model, state-of-the-art facility with Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard operations, including airlift and air refueling, soldier training and deployment and aircraft carrier research and development. The Joint Base's officers provide an invaluable service to the military. In particular, the 87th Air Base Wing provides installation management support for 3,933 facilities with an approximate value of $9.3 billion in physical infrastructure.

Colonel Hodges has been serving as the 87th Air Base Wing Commander and Installation Commander, where he has provided installation support to more than 80 mission partners. Colonel Hodges has also been responsible for providing mission-ready expeditionary Airmen and Sailors to combatant commanders in support of joint and combined operations. As the Commander of the Nation's only Tri-Service Base, Colonel Hodges has had a very difficult job, which he has performed masterfully.

A career civil engineer, Colonel Hodges obtained his degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1991. Upon receiving such degree, Colonel Hodges has served a variety of staff positions at the base, major command, joint, multinational and Pentagon levels. He has also commanded at the squadron and group level. His contingency experience includes service as a commander of an expeditionary civil engineer squadron in Operation Iraqi Freedom and as a joint-multinational staff officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Along with his lengthy service, Colonel Hodges has devoted countless hours of his time to furthering his education. He holds a Master of Science in engineering and policy from Washington University, a Master of Arts in organizational management from George Washington University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College.

Colonel Hodges' great work has not gone unnoticed. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Achievement Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Colonel James C. Hodges as he transitions into a new role and continues to serve the United States of America. I wish him the best as he proceeds into the next chapter of his career.

HONORING MICHAEL KARLS OF THE FESTUS TIGERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for his first place win in the 3200 Meter Run at the 2015 Class 4 Track and Field State Championship.

Michael and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. He was also chosen as his school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ELSON FLOYD

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today we remember the life of Washington State University President Elson Floyd. Dr. Floyd was one of the leading lights of education in our state. He not only ensured that he personally engaged with the lives of the students on his own campus, but he advocated for higher education across the state to any who would listen. He made educating his top priority and took extra measures to help his school succeed—such as cutting his own salary when he saw the effects of the economic downturn on WSU. I have had the pleasure of personally meeting Dr. Floyd and was moved by his passion and sincerity. We need more men and women like him throughout this country, helping our young people realize the advantages of pursuing a good education and pursue their dreams. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children as well as with his WSU family. As we say in the law enforcement world, he is gone but never forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 77th Anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

As you know, we can thank the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1938, for providing workers with an hourly minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor protections. Since then, the FLSA has been amended numerous times in an attempt to reflect changes in the cost of living. The most recent increase was in 2007, bringing the hourly minimum wage from $5.15 per hour to its current rate of $7.25 per hour.

Unfortunately, many key components of the FLSA are outdated and have failed to keep pace with the demands of daily life in 2015. This includes the value of the minimum wage, which has decreased sharply over the past few years—a mere $7.25 per hour equates to $14,500 per year for a full-time minimum wage employee. This makes it difficult for individuals to support themselves and their families, forcing many people to live below the poverty line. Other present day workers' concerns include the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has remained at $2.13 per hour for the past two decades. Domestic workers lack access to health care, paid sick days or paid time off—something I believe must be changed. Moreover, ''comp time'' in lieu of overtime pay, and break time for nursing mothers are workers' rights issues that need to be addressed in order to have a more productive workforce that can compete in a global marketplace, as well as to maintain a thriving society here at home.

We just celebrated the Fair Labor Standards Act's 75th Anniversary two years ago, and there was a lot of positive discussion around the issue at that time. We must keep up this momentum and continue to fight for workers' rights in our increasingly global economy. People deserve a livable wage for a hard days' work, and we urge you to bring up legislation that will lift so many Americans out of poverty.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MONSIGNOR JOHN BEVINS

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Monsignor John Bevins of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Connecticut.

This Sunday, Monsignor Bevins will celebrate the completion of 24 years of distinguished service to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the entire Waterbury community. Prior to his appointment as pastor of the basilica, Monsignor Bevins was a Navy Chaplain for 23 years, faithfully serving his fellow servicemembers wherever he was stationed including Vietnam. Monsignor Bevins has dedicated his life to his church, city, and country.

During his time as pastor, Monsignor Bevins has built a legacy of innovation and compassion for the basilica and its members. He was instrumental in having the parish named a minor basilica by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and has been involved in the creation and restoration of numerous parish programs. From feeding the homeless every morning, to providing workshops for adult education, to leading a massive renovation project, Monsignor Bevins' spiritual guidance and good work has positively impacted countless lives.

Monsignor Bevins illustrates the power of altruistic generosity and determination to bringing people together and strengthening communities. I would like to thank him for his exceptional contributions to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the Waterbury community. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy of service at Immaculate Conception will continue for years to come.

Congratulations to Monsignor Bevins on his retirement.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

The treatment so many of our veterans faced when they returned home from tours of duty was and is unacceptable. It is a dark chapter in our nation's history that we must never allow to be repeated. It is a testament to our veterans' unyielding call to duty that so many of them remain involved in veteran's service organizations and continue taking care of our troops as they return home from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Georgia has a rich military heritage and her involvement in the Vietnam War is no different. Out of the 228,000 sons and daughters of our state that served in the military during the war, 1,584 were killed, 8,534 were wounded, 21 were held as prisoners of war and 35 are missing in action. Today, it is our honor to be the home state of an estimated 254,000 Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the First District of Georgia, it is my honor to extend to our veterans this long overdue welcome home with the thanks of a grateful nation.

HONORING WAYNE BURGESS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank and honor an advocate, employee, veteran, and community leader from my district, Mr. Wayne Burgess, upon his retirement. Wayne has been a fixture of the Groton community for nearly 50 years, as the longest serving Principal Officer of MDA–UAW Local 571, as the President of the Southeastern Connecticut Central Labor Council, AFL–CIO, and as a leader in countless other local service organizations.

His energy and commitment are boundless, as evidenced by his impressive accomplishments, beginning with his service in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Wayne served three deployments aboard the USS Taylor from 1967–1969 before returning home to work at Electric Boat, where he has remained involved ever since. At EB, he worked as a technical/test writer before being elected MDA–UAW Financial Secretary in 1988. In the years that followed, Wayne constantly saw new opportunities for EB and its employees. He began the EB School to Work program in the City of Groton that allows high school juniors the opportunity to work at EB during the summers.

Wayne also devotes his time to the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, serving on the Food Advisory Board for the Gemma E. Moran United Way Center in New London and serves as the volunteer Chairman of the Charter Oak Credit Union Supervisory Committee. He is a devoted advocate for labor, for good jobs, for opportunity, and for the hardworking members of our community.

Please join me in thanking Wayne Burgess for the monumental impact he has made on the Groton community, and wishing him a peaceful and productive retirement.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Trade Adjustment Assistance. Although it is important that we sustain this program, this is not the best reauthorization bill the House could consider. However, the program expires on September 30 and this legislation allows workers in my district and across the country to access the support they need to compete in our global economy.

Unlike the bill that I introduced with Ranking Member LEVIN earlier this year, today's bill has several shortcomings, including one of critical concern. This legislation cuts funding for worker training from $575 million to $450 million at a time when we are expanding markets and transforming our economy.

We are in the middle of simultaneously negotiating trade agreements with Asia and the Pacific, as well as the European Union. Those who are impacted from increased competition deserve support and a safety net to adjust and reenter the job market.

The Administration recognizes that the $450 million funding level does not take into account increased competition from Asia and the Pacific. However, Secretary Perez has assured Congress that his funding level is adequate to cover not only training services, but also case management, reemployment services, and state administration of the program—all areas that had been previously funded separately, not with a combined funding stream, like that in this bill. I hope the Secretary is correct but should this not be the case, I hope the Administration is prepared to work with Congress to provide additional funding with the same vigor they've invested in passing TPA.

I am glad to see that we are no longer paying for this program by cutting funds from Medicare. However, I am disappointed that this bill does not qualify public sector workers for Trade Adjustment Assistance. They are an important part of our workforce and should be able to qualify for access to the same services.

Our nation's economy and success depend on our workers. Over the last decade, I have been a strong supporter of Trade Adjustment Assistance and have led the effort to protect, extend, and enhance the program. I believe in this program and will continue this fight for good jobs, to ensure American workers can provide for their families, and that our country remains competitive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2015 I missed votes due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment.

HONORING MACKENZIE RONEY OF THE HERCULANEUM BLACKCATS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mackenzie Roney of the Herculaneum Blackcats for her first place win in Pole Vaulting at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Mackenzie and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. She was also chosen as her school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mackenzie Roney of the Herculaneum Blackcats for a job well done.

CELEBRATING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th Anniversary of the Mendham Fire Department located in the Borough of Mendham in Morris County, New Jersey.

The Mendham Fire Department was established on June 20, 1905. The first officers of the department were elected at the founding meeting. The President was Edward S.P. Bretherton, Secretary J. Smith Gunther, Treasurer Charles P. Bretherton, and Chief John M. Hoffman. The original firehouse was completed in December 1906 with $885 raised by the residents. In 1913 the Mendham Independent Hook, Ladder, and Hose Company No. 1 was formed. One year later in 1904 the First Aid Squad came into existence with twelve men volunteers. In the past century, the department has grown and continued to provide the community with exemplary service.

On September 11, 2001 the fire department responded to terrorist attacks in New York. Their First Aid Squad was also sent to the World Trade Center to assist the victims at the site of the tragedy.

In 2014, the department responded to 250 calls with an average response time of seven minutes and twenty-two seconds. This is about two minutes less than the national average for all volunteer fire organizations. The department is not just responsible for responding to emergency calls. They are actively involved in just about every facet of the Mendham community and provide mutual aid to neighboring towns.

Each year the department continues to grow their junior membership. They provide opportunities for young men and women aged sixteen to eighteen, who participate in various firefighting and first aid activities. The makeup of the junior membership represents the best and brightest of Mendham. They carry on to college and beyond the confidence and skills that are instilled in them while working at the fire department.

The Mendham Fire Department has been able to maintain and grow a wonderful relationship of trust and respect with Mendham residents. For this 110th Anniversary the department is planning a number of events and activities to celebrate their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking and recognizing the Mendham Fire Department for their 110 years of dedicated service to the community.

HONORING TEMPLE, TX POLICE CHIEF GARY SMITH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Temple, TX Police Chief Gary Smith. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close out 37 years of incredible service to his community and begin the next chapter of his life.

A native son of Temple, Smith joined the force right out of high school and quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing his leadership and expertise at every step along the way. Recognition of his excellence included his being named Rookie of the Year and twice receiving the prestigious Officer of the Year award. Community leaders took notice of his great work and Smith was honored by the Temple City Council on three separate occasions for his stellar leadership and commitment to duty.

Chief Smith led his department with dedication, honesty, and integrity. Over the decades, Smith has seen his beloved police department grow from a small town force into a skilled and mobile law enforcement agency capable of providing safety to this rapidly growing city. Due in large part to his leadership, Temple is now one of the safest cities in the country. Locals could always sleep well knowing their safety was Smith's first priority.

As a former judge, I know firsthand the essential role police officers play in maintaining law and order and the risks they face every time they report for duty. These brave men and women awake each day uncertain of what dangers await. Yet they carry on, strengthened by their resolve to protect and serve. Police officers, be they big city beat cops or small town sheriffs, help preserve our way of life and are the shields that guard us from those lost souls who wish harm to others.

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world; Chief Gary Smith doesn't have that problem. I salute his extraordinary career and join the grateful citizens of Temple, TX in wishing him only the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAINE'S FRIENDSHIP SLOOP

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 135th anniversary of the Friendship Sloop, a style of sailing vessel that stands as an icon of Maine's maritime heritage.

Friendship Sloops were developed over a century ago in Maine's Muscongus Bay as fishing and lobstering boats. Their beautiful lines served an important purpose. The shape of the hull provided great stability and lobstermen could sail the boats by themselves while laying and checking their traps by hand. Many local craftsmen were known for building them, but none more than Wilbur Morse of Friendship, Maine. Morse's shop turned out so many of the boats that they eventually became known by the name of his hometown.

With the advent of modern-day engines in the 20th century, the Friendship Sloop fell out of favor as a fishing vessel. But it wasn't long before its beauty and functionality made it a popular design for recreational sailboats and yachts. Its distinctive shape lives on to this day with the help of many enthusiasts who carry on its legacy. Since 1961, the Friendship Sloop Society has hosted an annual regatta and connected a community of people who sail, rebuild, and appreciate these boats.

Much has changed since 1880, but life on the Maine coast retains many connections to those earlier days. Hard-working individuals still make their living on the water. Tight-knit communities still pull together for each other. And Friendship Sloops still gracefully ply the waters, their design largely unchanged in 135 years. Some things just cannot be improved upon.

My appreciation goes to all those who keep the tradition of the Friendship Sloop alive. It gives me great pleasure to celebrate its 135th anniversary.

OMAR RODAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, millions of American teenagers walked across the stage in their cap and gown and received their diploma after four years of hard work. Their high school careers will officially come to an end and the next chapter will soon take off. High School Graduation is an exciting time meant for celebration with friends and family. But one Texas student did not get to cross the stage in his green cap and gown to receive his high school diploma.

Omar Rodas from Houston, Texas was an 18 year old student at Klein Forest High School.

He was a tenacious student. Constantly, he put in the extra effort to make his dream of graduation a reality. He stayed for after school hours and worked overtime to ensure that he would graduate. He spent his extra time bussing tables at a local restaurant, Babins.

At first he did not think that he would be able to graduate, but Omar pulled it off. He worked tirelessly for that cap and gown and to make sure he was part of the big day in June. His friends said that he was so excited that the hours of extra time and effort made his dream of graduating a reality.

Omar was on his way to his graduation ceremony early Saturday morning on June 6, 2015 with his good friend, who agreed to drive him that morning to ensure that he would make it to the ceremony on time. On the Houston highway, he was suddenly killed in a violent car accident involving two other cars. Omar was already wearing his cap and gown when rescue crews pulled him out of the wreck.

Initial reports have suggested that Omar was driving on the freeway around 7 a.m. when he veered out of his lane and hit the back of a dump truck and SUV then veered in front of the truck and was struck.

Omar was pronounced dead at the scene.

Friends and family at the graduation ceremony were surprised and confused when Omar's name was called and he did not cross the stage.

No one knew that a terrible highway accident took the life of the bright student.

A candle vigil was held for Omar on June 7th at Klein Forest High School and student, parents, and friends are helping the family by setting up a GoFund account in order to help them raise money for the funeral so that the family may grieve properly without the worry of money. Many who attended the vigil wore

Red, Omar's favorite color, and many of the Class of 2015 students wore their graduation caps in honor of him.

Omar is survived by his parents, an older sister who previously graduated from Klein Forest High School and a younger brother. He had plans to continue working and hopefully attend Lone Star College after graduation.

Even though Omar did not get to hear his name called and physically walk the stage to take his diploma, the community has not stopped cheering for him.

Omar's memory will live on through his family, friends and classmates in Houston. He will always be a great example of how no matter the circumstances, hard work will always pay off.

Our prayers are with the Rodas family and all of Omar's friends.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SQUARE AND PIONEER PARK

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent improvements made to the Historic Downtown Square and Pioneer Park of Carrollton, Texas. Downtown Carrollton has been an iconic part of northern Texas since the early 1800's.

These improvements will give people improved space and new scenery to visit and enjoy leisurely time with friends and family. It is important to keep our parks and recreational areas updated to continue and expand their vital role in the community. These renovations will reinvigorate the Historic Downtown Square as well as Pioneer Park and make them alluring destinations for years to come.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 27th to officially unveil the new changes. City officials and local leaders will be in attendance to speak about the hard work and effort put into the new developments. I encourage everyone to attend and show support for the time and dedication put into this project. I'm thankful for the people of the 24th district of Texas who strive to make our home a more habitable and enjoyable place.

At the unveiling will be a concert featuring local artists as well as an outdoor movie with the director's wife present to introduce the film. It is this strong sense of community that will serve the people of Carrollton and everyone who visits the historic downtown.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the ever improved Historic Downtown Square and Pioneer Park. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating such an accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF MR. FRANKLIN DOUGLASS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding community leader, devoted public servant, and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Mr. Franklin Douglass. A funeral service to celebrate Frank's life will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, where he had served as a deacon.

Franklin Douglass was born in Belle Mona, Alabama on July 20, 1936, the third oldest of ten brothers and four sisters. The family made a living by tenant farming in rural Limestone County, Alabama. He enrolled in Tuskegee Institute, joined ROTC, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, Health, and Recreation in 1956. Over the next 30 years, his pursuit of personal growth earned him graduate degrees in Personnel Management and Education Supervision and Administration. His passion for education was infectious, and as an educator Frank inspired thousands of students to seek knowledge and growth.

Frank served our nation honorably as an officer in the United States Army from 1959 until 1964, when he was honorably discharged. He then accepted his first teaching post at Marshall Junior High School. After only a year of teaching, Frank was appointed acting principal of Marshall Junior High before becoming a Media Specialist for the Muscogee County School District. His career as an educator in the Columbus area took Frank to several schools and classrooms before his appointment as principal of William H. Spencer High School at the age of 40 in 1976. After a dozen years of serving as principal, Frank became Director of Muscogee County Student Services in 1988, a post he held until his retirement in 1990.

Frank's passion for improving the conditions of those in the Columbus area extended beyond the classroom. As Commissioner and Vice Chairman of the Columbus Housing Authority, Frank fought for three decades to keep living conditions affordable for everyone in his community. An active member of Kiwanis Club, Social-Civic 25 Club, 837 Club, Phi Delta Kappa, and Omega Psi Phi, Frank utilized his smile and amiable humor to advance the interests of Columbus natives. Additionally, as a member of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders and the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Frank built ties with educational leaders around the state of Georgia and the southeastern United States.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Franklin Douglass is his steadfast commitment to his family, as well as his community. As father to Franklin Karl Douglass and grandfather to Temple Douglass, he was an inspiration to extended family and countless friends. Moreover, as a husband, there was no limit to his love of his wonderful wife of nearly 55 years, Merrian.

A dear friend to me for more than thirty years, Frank was soft spoken, quiet, and thoughtful. He was one of the cooler heads in dealing with community issues and problems. His demeanor and intuitiveness helped him get things done. We are so blessed that Frank passed this way and did so much for so many for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Franklin Douglass for his servant leadership and his deep commitment to his family, his community, and his country. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Douglass family and friends during this very difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING DEVON DOWLER OF THE OWENSVILLE DUTCHMEN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Devon Dowler of the Owensville Dutchmen for his first place win in the 3200 Meter Hurdles at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Devon and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Devon Dowler of the Owensville Dutchmen for a job well done.

H.R. 2898—WESTERN WATER AND FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2015

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, the California Republican Delegation again took action to address our state's water supply crisis, introducing balanced legislation improving water access for Californians around the state by using improved science to time water deliveries, preserve water rights and move forward on new surface storage facilities.

The bill protects the most fundamental water rights of all, area of origin rights, ensuring that Northern Californians who live where our state's water supply originates have access to it.

It uses modern science to improve the timing of water deliveries, allowing the storage of more water during winter storms which makes it available for dry periods like now.

It addresses invasive species that are negatively impacting salmon populations, and allows local water districts to undertake their own habitat improvement projects.

Finally, California's voters have spoken clearly in support of investment in new surface storage projects, and this measure fulfills that promise by advancing projects that would generate over one million acre-feet of water, enough for eight million Californians.

We'll continue to refine this proposal as it moves through the process, but I am proud to cosponsor a bill that addresses both short- and long-term needs of all Californians and support continued economic growth.

TRIBUTE TO PAIGE SEISER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Paige

Seiser from Waukee High School for winning the Class 2A Co-ed Golf Doubles title along with her partner, Parker Howe. I would like to also recognize Paige Seiser for taking home the Class 5A Girls Golf individual title.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them and their families in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Paige and Parker on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in their education and high school golf career.

HONORING THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today in honor of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, which will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on July 7.

Sadly, too often it seems as if lessons from history are overlooked or forgotten. But in Virginia, we are proud of our history, of our love of freedom, and of our dedication to independence. I commend the important efforts of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to keep in our hearts and minds American patriotism and the memory of our Revolutionary War heritage.

As a student of history myself, I could spend hours discussing not only the various events preceding and succeeding our nation's fight for independence, but also the crucial role by Virginians. Countless patriots, battles, and events from this pivotal period in our nation's history ought to be commemorated and remembered, battles including but not limited to the Battle of Point Pleasant, which is credited as being the first battle of the American Revolution by the Senate of the United States, to the Battle of Great Bridge, the Burning of Norfolk, etc.

May we forever remain vigilant and committed to preserving and protecting the self-evident truths and freedoms fought for and so carefully outlined in our nation's founding documents by our Founding Fathers.

I extend to all those involved with the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution my best wishes on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, and look forward to this organization's continued success.

BIOGRAPHY OF MARY BROOM-THOMAS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the biography of Mary Broom-Thomas, a wife, mother and woman of faith who lived to the ripe age of 101 years and who will be missed by many who loved her.

Mrs. Mary Broom-Thomas was born on January 22, 1914 in Lexington, Mississippi to Alberta Garnett-Broom and Cleveland Broom. She graduated from Saints Industrial High School in Lexington, Mississippi and taught there for 2 years.

Mary married Leroy Thomas, Sr. in 1937 and the couple moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where they built a home. They had four children, McKinley, Abraham, Earnestine, and Leroy, Jr.

After Leroy finished military duty in the South Pacific, Mary and Leroy moved the family to Compton, California in 1955. Mary practiced her vocation as a seamstress, making her own patterns and designing clothes, including garments for her children and some specialty sales for friends and family. After the children graduated from Centennial and Locke High Schools and were off to college and building careers, Mary took a job at Newberry's Department Store in downtown Los Angeles. She continued sewing clothing, but later added making handbags and light upholstery to her sewing skills portfolio.

Mrs. Thomas was a member of First A.M.E. Church where Reverend Dr. Cecil Murray was Pastor. They continued to visit at family gatherings after his retirement and by then she became less mobile.

Up until seven years ago, Mrs. Thomas always had an organic garden. She grew an array of vegetables and fruits. She and her family were healthier for it . . . she lived a great 101 years.

She raised her children to embrace the Golden Rule, ''Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'' She lived the example. She taught the core values of honesty, respect, humility, courage and the necessity of sometimes standing alone as long as you stand for the right thing.

She championed education. Some of her most favorite people: The Honorable Maxine Waters, Congresswoman; the Honorable Barack Obama—she was glad to see the first African-American become President of the United States; the late former Mayor Tom Bradley; Malcom X; Dr. Martin Luther King; Mrs. Rosa Parks; Reverend Dr. Cecil L. Chip Murray; Kobe Bryant; and Shaquille O'Neil as she was an avid Laker fan. She attended a personal reception with the team along with her grandson, Demetrius Wilson.

She has been honored with a published song entitled ''Mary,'' composed, scored and written by her grandson, Endele (Sky) Wilson; and she has been given a tribute by her grandson, Demetrius (Red) Wilson, via a personalized brick on the residential mall at Xavier University, his alma mater, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

One would often hear her quoting from an old spiritual, ''needless pain we bear . . . all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.''

Just a little about a Queen, who never had to declare herself a queen . . . she just was.

CONGRATULATING PENNY BUSINGA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Penny Businga of Gering, Nebraska, on her retirement this month and to honor her 29 years of dedicated service at Educational Service Unit #13 in Scottsbluff.

Before becoming a trailblazer for professional development, Ms. Businga taught in western Nebraska public schools. She then decided to take her classroom expertise to the next level to assist other educators across the Nebraska Panhandle and beyond.

Ms. Businga devoted her career to ensuring Nebraska teachers have the innovative training and support they need to instill a love of learning in their students. When I worked for her, I personally witnessed Ms. Businga's hard work and dedication to ensuring educational opportunity for young people.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Ms. Businga for her impact on Nebraska education and congratulate her on the start of this new chapter in her life.

RECOGNIZING THE DAMAGING IMPACT OF SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 2nd anniversary of the Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court ruling. By declaring Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, the Supreme Court dismantled a key provision to this pivotal voting rights protection. The importance of the Voting Rights Act to our American democracy cannot be overstated. This damaging precedent, set by the nation's highest Court has weakened a piece of legislation that was fundamental to the advancement of the American democracy.

On June 25, 2013, when the Supreme Court decided that states with a history of discrimination against minority voters no longer needed clearance from the federal government to set new voting restrictions, it established a pathway for modern day discriminatory practices. Under this ruling, states across the Deep South, where vestiges of discrimination are still present, were able to enact stricter voting requirements for the first time since 1965.

Many of these states, including my home state of Texas, are governed by Republican-led state legislatures that insist on the necessity of voter ID laws to protect the integrity of elections. However, Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that these laws, which disproportionately affect African-Americans, Hispanics and poor people, are a political ploy to suppress voter turnout. This runs counter to the Constitutional right to vote, which is the cornerstone of our democracy.

Recently, as a result of the Shelby County v. Holder ruling, Texas implemented restrictive voter ID laws that prohibit voting autonomy for many underserved minorities across the state. During the 2014 election, instead of being granted the opportunity to cast their vote of choice, many voters were turned away on the basis of technicalities.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fathom how these actions would be permissible among any group of lawmakers. Today, I stand before you to call attention to this fact. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was implemented to ensure that all Americans have the ability to exercise their right to vote. This body should act in a bi-partisan fashion to ensure that this right is fully restored.

HONORING BRIANNA HALLER OF THE FATIMA COMETS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for her first place win in 3200 Meter Run at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Brianna and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was detained with business in my district and missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

''No'' on roll call no. 379, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 33, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2042) Ratepayer Protection Act; and,

''No'' on roll call no. 380, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 333, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2042) Ratepayer Protection Act.

THANKING FATHER ALAN HUNTER

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Father Alan Hunter for his years of service in the St. Mary's parish in my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois.

Having served 13 years in Taylorville and 22 years in Christian County, Father Hunter has captured the true essence of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Alan has not only been a great leader for all of the parishioners at St. Mary's, but he's also been a close personal friend of mine as well.

He married my wife, Shannon, and I twenty years ago and has helped educate all three of my children through grade school at St. Mary's.

I've been fortunate enough to work with Father Hunter as a volunteer athletic director and serve on his finance advisory committee.

He will be greatly missed at St. Mary's, but I know our loss is St. Jerome's gain and I wish him the best in his new parish. I also welcome Father David Lantz as he makes Taylorville his new home.

Father Hunter, thank you for the many years of spiritual guidance and leadership you've provided, not just my family and the parishioners at St. Mary's, but to the entire Taylorville community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 378 I was absent due to travel for personal reasons and in connection with my official duties. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 2015 I mistakenly voted ''yes'' on rollcall 384, the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. I strongly oppose the bill and intended to vote ''no''.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AN OUTSTANDIING NEW HAMPSHIRE GRADUATE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Meaghan Six, an outstanding recent graduate of Manchester Memorial High School, located in New Hampshire's First Congressional District and a future graduate of Daniel Webster College in Nashua, New Hampshire.

As a dedicated student and an active individual, Meaghan Six quickly distinguished herself as an influential leader amongst her peers. Meaghan was the captain of her high school volleyball team, as well as being named as an alternate to the Women's Jr. National A1 Working team, placing her in the top 100 volleyball players nationwide for her age group. She was also a competitor on the spring track and field team and nominated for the female in spring sports award. She was awarded the single Crusader award for her graduating class. Meaghan's talents do not only set her apart athletically, but also in the classroom. Along with completing 28 consecutive quarters on both the Honor Roll and High Honors she was inducted into the National Honor Society; which recognizes students for their exemplary character, commitment to scholarship, and, their dedication to service outreach in their community.

This coming fall Meaghan will continue her impressive career as a notable student-athlete at Daniel Webster College on their women's volleyball team; she serves as an inspiration to all young people in New Hampshire and throughout the nation. She is proof that hard work and dedication can certainly pay off. I am proud to recognize her accomplishments and look forward to witnessing her future successes.

Congratulations to Meaghan Six for all of her achievements.

TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN VIOLA PERCIVAL WILLIAMS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise to offer a tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American, Maureen Viola Percival Williams, who has, and continues to act as a mentor, devout Christian and loving mother. On July 1, 2015, Maureen will celebrate her 71st birthday. We exalt Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams first for the determination and perseverance that she has exhibited throughout her life. Maureen has been no stranger to hard work. At an early age the importance of hard work and dedication were introduced to Maureen on her father's agricultural farms in the mountains of Molyneux in St. Kitts West Indies. Arriving at the farm at 5:00 a.m., Maureen would weed the land and feed the livestock before school each day. These displays of commitment were not reserved solely for the weekdays. Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams would spend Saturdays by her mother's side assisting in the selling of produce at the local market. Few would be able to handle the manual labor of Maureen's day-to-day activities, let alone balancing academics alongside of it. Mrs. Percival Williams' rigorous work schedule did not deter her from successfully completing Primary School and obtaining her certificate, which is equivalent to a high school diploma. Maureen Viola Percival was then enrolled in typing classes at the Catholic Church of Molyneux, where she completed a one year program. After marrying Ralph J. A. Williams in 1964, the family moved to the U.S. Virgin Islands where her life as a public servant and model citizen continued. She became the first member of her family to have children born as citizens of the United States after giving birth to her seven children: (Vallyn J. A. Williams, Artlyn K. J. Williams, Ralph J. A. Williams, Jr., M. Louisa Williams, Barbara N. Williams, Maural F. Williams and Jayar D. Williams). In spite of challenges faced balancing motherhood and her career, Maureen continued to dedicate her life to the church and bettering the lives of others.

Volunteering as a member of the AFM—Cottage Meeting Group, Maureen also spent time as a phone intercessor for the sick and disabled. This sort of selflessness is primarily the reason for which I deem this tribute necessary. Unfortunately, life often proves to not be as fair and just as Mrs. Maureen Percival Williams.

In 1987 her husband and two daughters were involved in an automobile accident which rendered them incapacitated. Yet, amidst Maureen Williams' personal struggles, she

persevered. Determined to become a citizen of the United States, on July 1, 1998 she fulfilled the requirements for naturalization and received her Certification of Naturalization.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer tribute to Mrs. Percival Williams because she represents a group of citizens that are more deserving of recognition than any other. Men and women like Mrs. Percival Williams are what silently hold this nation together. Those who struggle and persevere and those who give back are exactly what this country needs. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Percival Williams acts as a representative for all of these groups. Simply put, Mrs Williams is a model citizen.

In 1999, Maureen once again displayed her caring nature when she rushed to the aid of her son in Orlando, Florida who had recently experienced an aneurism. These extenuating circumstances are what brought Mrs. Maureen Percival Williams to my district. Her love and care brought her to our country and the values of perseverance and determination instilled to her on her father's farm in the West Indies have aided her in face of recent struggles. Mrs. Percival Williams has endured the loss of family members, and overcome her own near death medical challenges and yet, she perseveres.

Though Maureen is celebrated for her persistence and determination, the title that suits her best is that of which she is most proud; caregiver. Mrs. Percival Williams holds her relationship with her children with the utmost regard, and prides herself on being a mother not only to her own but for the children of others. The lives of those directly and indirectly affected by the actions and care of Maureen Viola Percival Williams are undoubtedly better. Today we pay tribute to a woman of God. Today we recognize Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams, a humanitarian, a woman, a wife, a mother, and a citizen of the United States of America. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, we are here to pay tribute to a hero.

SUPPORT OF THE ''PRIVILEGED'' RESOLUTION CALLED BY REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (MS) TO REMOVE ALL SYMBOLS BEARING THE CONFEDERATE FLAG FROM THE HALLS OF THE HOUSE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my brothers and sisters of the Congressional Black Caucus, to stand in support of the ''privileged'' resolution called by Rep. BENNIE THOMPSON to remove the Confederate Flag where ever it may be represented within the House wing of the U.S. Capitol.

It is with great remorse that what took place on June 17, 2015 at the Emanuel AME bible study in Charleston, S.C. that claimed the lives of Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Hurd, Tywanza Sanders, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lance, Daniel Simmons, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, and South Carolina State Senator Rev. Clementa Pinckney had to be the catalyst to drive this motion after 150 years when this symbol was first surrendered.

For many Americans, this symbol has stood as a symbol of heritage under which their family has dug deep roots into our country.

But, this symbol was created in a time where our nation struggled to understand the very words written in our own Declaration of Independence, ''We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.''

Furthermore, troubled individuals and groups have taken to the symbol of the Confederate flag as an icon to portray their racist expression and actions against all groups whether in regards to their gender, sexuality, or race.

Much like the creation and defamation of the swastika in Europe, this symbol of hatred must not be a symbol in our present, but a symbol in our past.

I urge my colleagues in the House Administration to act in due diligence to bring this issue back to the House Floor for consideration so that we may do our duty as elected Representatives and respond to the voices of this great nation.

HONORING ALLISON HINSON OF THE ST. CLAIR BULLDOGS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Allison Hinson of the St. Clair Bulldogs for her first place win in Shot Put at the 2015 Class 4 Track and Field State Championship.

Allison and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Allison Hinson of the St. Clair Bulldogs for a job well done.

THE TIME TO REAUTHORIZE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND IS NOW

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year, I spoke in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). There are now less than 100 days until the expiration of the program, and I rise today to urge timely reauthorization of this critical conservation program.

LWCF, which is paid for entirely by royalties collected from oil and gas companies, has financed generations of projects, bringing parks and open spaces to the hearts of our urban areas and protecting our natural lands, outdoor recreation opportunities, and working forests at the local, state and federal levels. Since its creation, the LWCF program has conserved more than 5 million acres of parks, recreation, forests, and other lands through the federal program and more than 2.6 million acres in communities throughout every state in the nation.

My home state of North Carolina has received more than $200 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, which has helped protect some of our state's most treasured places, such as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. LWCF funds have also helped conserve land to preserve viewsheds along the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail. I was particularly pleased that one such project included the Rocky Fork tract in the Cherokee National Forest in my native state of Tennessee.

But LWCF does more than simply add to our public lands. Investing in LWCF is also an important way to grow our economy. In North Carolina alone, active outdoor recreation contributes more than $7.5 billion annually to the state's economy, supports 95,000 jobs, generates $430 million in annual state tax revenue and produces $6.1 billion annually in retail sales and services. Overall, outdoor recreation contributes more than $1.06 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. Every $1 invested in LWCF has been found to yield $4 in economic value. Without LWCF funding to stimulate matching investments from state, local and private entities, this crucial economic engine will be lost.

These numbers prove the program's success, but I would note that the program is also extremely popular. In recent polls, more than 80% of voters expressed support for continuing to deposit fees from offshore oil and gas drilling into LWCF—this broad support extends from every geographic region of the country and every political persuasion. Supporters include governors, mayors, sportsmen, industry leaders, conservationists, Civil War enthusiasts, historians, recreationists, small businesses, forest owners, and the many Americans who see firsthand the tangible benefits this program has had on their communities and families. I know many of my colleagues represent states and communities that have benefitted greatly from LWCF funds.

Although LWCF has a dedicated revenue stream from offshore drilling royalties and takes no taxpayer money from the general fund, large portions of this funding have been diverted over the years to non-conservation purposes. Even at last year's appropriated level of $306 million, we were a far cry from the $900 million that is annually authorized for conservation work.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1814, that would permanently reauthorize LWCF. I strongly believe Congress should uphold its decades long commitment to land and water conservation and reinvigorate LWCF, thereby expanding opportunities for all Americans to have access to parks and natural areas for outdoor recreation. With the expiration coming in September 2015, the time to reauthorize Land and Water Conservation Fund is now.

STAFF SERGEANT HEREFORD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Staff Sergeant Keith Hereford, United States Army for his service to our country.

Staff Sergeant Hereford served in the United States Army and Army Air Corps from November 1943 to November 1945. During his service as B–17 aerial gunner, he served a year of duty with 1st Division, 8th Air Force, 305th Bomb Group, and 365th Bomb Squadron in Chelveston, England.

During Staff Sergeant Hereford's ninth mission his aircraft was shot down over Holland where he was captured after successfully parachuting to the ground. He was subsequently sent to the German Prisoner of War camp, Stalag Luft 4, in Gross Tychow (Prussia). The camp was liberated by the British forces on May 2, 1945, and in November 1945, he separated from active duty.

Staff Sergeant Hereford's awards and decorations include the Air Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Prisoner of War Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal. After his service, Staff Sergeant Hereford started his own plumbing company and successfully raised his four daughters as a single parent after his wife passed away in 1962.

Through his courageous service, Staff Sergeant Hereford charted the path for future generations to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Staff Sergeant Hereford for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

HONORING DEBBIE FRAZIER

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Debbie Frazier on winning the Michael Brown Memorial Faces of the Community Award. Ms. Frazier is an outstanding member of our community, and I am proud to represent her in Florida's 22nd District.

This distinguished award recognizes community members who have dedicated themselves to grassroots organizations that promote LGBT pride, diversity, and awareness. Debbie is a prolific advocate and leader, and her long list of credentials illustrates her passion for public service and promoting LGBT equality.

In 2010, Ms. Frazier founded the Straight and Gay Alliance in Wellington, Florida. Debbie also led a county-wide effort to 'Get Out the Vote,' which included a social media photo campaign. Currently, she serves as the President of the Alliance for Social Justice, a grassroots outreach program designed to empower young adults to become the leaders of tomorrow. When she is not doing community outreach, she works as the executive regional director of the GLBT Democratic Caucus.

In honor of her award, I am proud to recognize Debbie Frazier and thank her for her tireless advocacy and work for our community.

REMEMBERING EMANUEL AME

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, nine extraordinary men and women were killed at the Wednesday night Bible study at historic Mother Emanuel AME Church in my birthplace of Charleston. I am grateful for their memories.

Reverend Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Hurd, Tywanza Sanders, Susie Jackson, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lee Lance, Reverend Daniel Simmons, Reverend Depayne Middleton-Doctor, along with Pastor Clementa Pinckney were all leaders of our community and in their church. One served the youth as a high school track coach, one a lifelong librarian, one a recent college graduate with a bright future ahead of him. Many served their church. Each had a clear love of God and love for their fellow man as followers of Jesus Christ.

The loss of Reverend Senator Clementa Pinckney has been personal, as he was a fellow State legislator. I was honored to host the senator, his wife, Jennifer, and their daughters, Eliana and Malana, when they visited the Capitol a few years ago. He grew up in Ridgeland as a lifelong friend of my former chief of staff Eric Dell.

A hate-filled, drug-crazed murderer tried to divide our citizens, but he failed, and South Carolinians have unified in love, prayer, and respect.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $18,152,648,277,344.06. We've added $7,525,771,228,430.98 to our debt in 6 years. This is over $7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

JUNE AS ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness month. Currently, 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's and it is projected that the number will increase to a staggering 16 million by 2050. In my home state of Florida, an estimated 480,000 people are living with the debilitating disease.

Alzheimer's is devastating for patients and their families and is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Early this year, I had the opportunity to speak with a representative from the Southeast Florida Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association about priorities related to research and care planning. I want to give a special thanks to the local chapter I am honored to represent in Miami Dade and Monroe Counties for providing patient services like a 24 hour dementia specific helpline.

Today, Alzheimer's cannot be prevented, cured, or slowed, but there are many things we can do as lawmakers to support patients and their families. I look forward to working with my colleagues to help move towards eradicating this terrible disease.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESSEX TROOP

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Essex Troop for their dedicated service as they celebrate their 125th Anniversary.

The Essex Troop was established at a meeting on June 3, 1890, with the goal of creating a cavalry troop. For one hundred and twenty-five years the troop has been working hard to serve the military needs of the State of New Jersey and the United States of America.

At the founding meeting, officers were elected to lead the newly established troop. Colonel James E. Fleming, Second Lieutenant R. Wayne Parker, First Sergeant Charles Heath, Quartermaster Sergeant Frederick B Young, and First Lieutenant Frederick Frelinghuysen were elected. The troop was originally composed of forty members including the officers. Colonel Fleming immediately began training the troops to protect and defend the state and the nation.

Originally, the Essex Troop operated out of a privately owned armory. By 1903, however, the Troop outgrew this facility. It was then the Troop moved into its current location. The Armory, which was designed by a member of the Essex Troop, sits on 30 acres of land in West Orange and was furnished entirely by the Troopers themselves. It was here that they became renowned for their equestrian abilities, regularly hosting horse shows and polo matches that eventually gained national attention. The Troop also hosted a number of balls here over the years. This Armory is still in use today, and is where the members of the Essex Troop keep their traditions alive.

The Essex troop has responded to several riots and natural disasters that have occurred in New Jersey as well as other states throughout the nation. They have participated in many events and ceremonies, including parades, escort services, marches, and statue dedications.

On June 18, 1902 the troop reported for active duty in response to the textile strikes in

Paterson, New Jersey. The strikes had gotten out of hand and the troop patrolled for ten days, walking the streets during the evening to ensure law and order. During World War I, the troop was called into duty to serve our nation. They have also had the responsibility for guarding the Mexican border.

The troop served as the personal escort for President William McKinley's Vice President, Garret A. Hobart of Paterson, New Jersey. They were also charged with transferring President Ulysses Grant's tomb to New York City. The troop served as the honor guard and escort for Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, and Woodrow Wilson. At the inauguration ceremony for each Governor of New Jersey, the Essex Troop serves as part of the honor guard.

Mr. Speaker please join me in honoring the Essex Troop and its members for their one hundred and twenty-five years of service and dedication to the State of New Jersey and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I missed recorded votes on H.R. 1190 (Roll Call #376), H.R. 805 (Roll Call #377), and H.R. 2576 (Roll Call #378) on June 23, 2015 due to inclement weather.

If I had been present, I would have voted NAY on H.R. 1190, and YEA on H.R. 805 and H.R. 2576.

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE U.N. CHARTER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in celebrating the 70th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter and the establishment of one of the world's greatest organizations for peace and the advancement of humanity.

As the representative from San Francisco, this anniversary holds a particular pride for the people of my city and for me—for it was San Francisco that played host to the grand conference of delegates that wrote the U.N. Charter; and it was in the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, on June 26, 1945, that the Charter was signed.

On that day, President Harry S Truman came to the Plenary to offer his congratulations and his hopes for the future of the new United Nations: "You have created a great instrument for peace and security and human progress in the world," President Truman said. "The world must now use it."

Seven decades later, 193 member states have ratified the Charter. The world's greatest leaders and thinkers have been among the United Nations representatives. In 1946, United Nations General Assembly Delegate and Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which builds on President Franklin D. Roosevelt's commitment to "freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from fear, and freedom from want" for all people.

The United Nations has worked to end disease, hunger and poverty. It has sought to advance human rights, human dignity, and the opportunities of women and girls. It has focused the world's attention on the urgency of the climate crisis and the plight of refugees. It has stood against violence, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. It has been a great bulwark for global peace.

The U.N. continues to confront the challenges of the 21st century by striving to not only meet the Millennium Development Goals but to expand them with the Sustainable Development Goals to be finalized this fall. It is my firm hope that the United States will be a strong and active participant in the effort to realize the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve progress for all the peoples of the United Nations.

In striving to fulfill the ideals and promise of its charter, the United Nations, related agencies, programs and staff have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize eleven times.

In 1950, Ralph Bunche, an American, became the first person affiliated with the new organization to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, he remarked, "I am but one of many cogs in the United Nations, the greatest peace organization ever dedicated to the salvation of mankind's future on earth."

This weekend, the city of San Francisco will once again welcome the U.N.'s highly respected Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and other representatives of the United Nations. Our mayor Ed Lee and the people of San Francisco are thrilled and proud to once more play host to another milestone of U.N. history in our beautiful city.

Under the vital leadership of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations remains a strong, resolute, unwavering voice for peace in a world burdened by war. May it continue to stand as a beacon of peace for the next 70 years and beyond.

H.R. 160

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 160, not because I believe that the current tax on the device industry is perfect, but because I object to the Majority's fixation on passing permanent tax repeals without offsets.

As the representative from a part of our country that is known around the world for its research and innovation, I fully understand the importance of the device industry to the health and wellness of Americans, economic development, and our global competitiveness. Medical devices have the potential to save and improve the lives of Americans, and the companies that produce them are helping our economy recover by investing in new technology and providing high-paying, high-skilled jobs here in the United States.

Like other industries, device companies understand that the skyrocketing cost of health care represents one of the greatest threats to families, small business owners, state and federal budgets, and the overall economy. In part, Congress enacted the Affordable Care Act to help reverse this trend, and AdvaMed, the trade association representing medical device manufacturers, has supported policies to expand access to their life-saving products.

The final law brought the original $40 billion levy on device manufacturers down to a $20 billion contribution through a 2.3%, rather than 4.6%, excise tax on medical devices. However, as the ten-year budget window has shifted, industry leaders report that they expect to pay more than originally predicted. We need to monitor this situation carefully and find a fair solution that accounts for the additional business the device industry may acquire as a result of the Affordable Care Act, while underscoring the need to keep the industry vibrant and innovative.

Unfortunately, that is not the discussion we are having today. House Republicans are bringing to the Floor a bill that would, yet again, provide for a permanent tax cut without an offset. When this bill is added to the other permanent tax cut bills brought to the Floor this year alone, they add up to more than $610 billion in tax cuts without even a penny of an offset.

The point is not that tax reductions or expenditures without offsets are never justified. Rather, they need to be part of a coherent, comprehensive budget strategy.

This is not a debate about innovation and economic development as the Majority would like you to believe. This debate is about fiscal responsibility; it is about taking one tax provision and making it permanent without paying for it, without regard to implications for the rest of the budget.

At a time when the House is bringing its appropriations bills to the House Floor, it is clear that reckless tax cuts like these have decimated our nation's ability to make the key investments a great country must make. Earlier this month, the House considered the 2016 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee charged with drafting the bill, I can tell you that it, like the other appropriations bills this body will consider, woefully underinvests in our nation due to the Majority's wrong-headed refusal to adopt a comprehensive approach to balance our budget.

Should the House Republicans choose to debate and refine the Affordable Care Act's medical device excise tax, I stand ready to work with them. Until then, I will have to continue my record of voting against the unpaid-for tax cuts the Republican Majority is bringing to the Floor in the 114th Congress.

RED FOXES COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Red Foxes from Red Rocks Community College on placing first in the National Science Foundation's Community College Innovation Challenge. This program serves as an innovative

way for community college students to partner with community industries to create pioneering STEM-based solutions for real world issues. The Community College Innovation Challenge is an important example of encouraging STEM education and research for our nation's students and future leaders. I congratulate all of the competition's participants for their work on a variety of important projects.

The Red Foxes placed first in the challenge with their Mobile Medical Disaster Relief Unit. Made out of 3D printed parts, a motor, Radio Frequency ID (RFID) tracker and Raspberry Pi computer, this device enhances the ability for medical teams to distribute and track needed medicine when responding to disasters. With its implementation, emergency responders could respond to high-stress, time-sensitive medical situations more quickly, more safely, and more effectively. The Red Foxes identified this problem and began working as a team to develop an innovative solution leaning on the skills of each of their team members.

I congratulate the Red Fox Team of Nathan Tiedt, Scotty Hall, Kaia Chapman, Keya Lea Horiuchi, and their faculty advisory Helena Martellaro for their first place finish. I applaud the Red Foxes for their dedication to this groundbreaking project and their leadership and commitment to STEM education blazing a path for our country's future leaders and innovators. I am proud of the work Red Rocks Community College does every day and I look forward to seeing what the school and these students accomplish in the years to come.

RETIREMENT OF JIM TUDOR

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my dear friend, Jim Tudor, who is retiring after 29 years of committed service to the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores.

Jim served in the U.S. Army after graduating from the University of Cincinnati in 1972. After completing his military service, Jim went on to spend nine years working for 7-Eleven before joining the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores.

In his 29 years with the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores, Jim has been repeatedly honored for his skilled and dedicated advocacy. He received the Liberty Award from Brown & Williamson in 2000. Moreover, the Pigeon Committee, an organization of Georgia lobbyists, has recognized him on numerous occasions throughout his career, most notably, with the 2012 Golden Pigeon Award for his advocacy that succeeded in bringing about the passage of Sunday alcohol sales in Georgia. Jim was also recognized in James Magazine's list of top ten lobbyists or trade organizations every year from 2012 through 2014.

Jim's tireless dedication goes well beyond his work at the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores. He has been an active mentor and leader at the Georgia Youth Assembly, the YMCA, and a host of other youth groups. Jim is also very active in the Covington Rotary. A devout Christian, Jim has served in numerous roles in his church and has been a model of the highest morals and values.

In Jim's career and with his family, church, and community, he has been the embodiment of dedication and moral character. I wish him all the best as he spends his hard-earned retirement with his wife Sandra, their four children, and five grandchildren.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE OF NAPA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Children's Health Initiative of Napa County as they celebrate their tenth anniversary of service to our community. I thank the Children's Health Initiative for their years of work connecting underserved families and children to quality healthcare services.

Founded in 2005, the Children's Health Initiative has worked tirelessly to help the less fortunate members of the Napa County community enroll in affordable health and dental insurance plans. Since their inception, the Children's Health Initiative has enrolled over 16,000 children and teens in subsidized health insurance programs, increasing the number of insured children in Napa County by 78.6 percent.

Additionally, the Children's Health Initiative works in 43 public schools across the county to educate students and parents about health insurance and coverage options. As the first non-profit organization in California to implement a team of bi-lingual, bi-cultural licensed insurance agents, the Children's Health Initiative has shown a true dedication to providing quality service to our community. Thanks to these outreach efforts, thousands of Napa County residents now have access to affordable health insurance and a platform to lead healthy lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank the Children's Health Initiative of Napa County for their service to our community over the past ten years. The Children's Health Initiative's unyielding commitment to providing the residents of Napa County with affordable healthcare options has been essential to ensuring the overall well being of our community, and we wish them continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES R. MIDDLETON ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Chuck Middleton, President of Roosevelt University, on his retirement from Roosevelt after 13 years of outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student success.

As Roosevelt University's fifth president, Dr. Middleton brought relentless energy and dedication to the institution, transforming the university from a part-time, adult university to one primarily serving traditional-age, full-time students. During his tenure, Dr. Middleton expanded Roosevelt's faculty by 23%, created Roosevelt's College of Pharmacy, revitalized Roosevelt's intercollegiate athletic programs, and led construction of Roosevelt's Wabash Building, a multi-purpose 32-story, vertical campus that is the second tallest university building in the United States.

Dr. Middleton is a professor and scholar of modern British history. In addition to Roosevelt, he has held senior administrative positions at the University System of Maryland, Bowling Green State University, and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Dr. Middleton's career is defined by his commitment to inclusiveness and diversity in education, and he has dedicated significant energy to civic and community leadership, including establishment of the national LGBTQ Presidents in Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, as an alumnus of Roosevelt University, I applaud Dr. Middleton for his invaluable and exemplary leadership to the many students and institutions he has served. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Middleton on an accomplished career and wishing him a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THOMAS GLENDON STAFFORD

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor lifelong Missourian Thomas Glendon Stafford from Cape Girardeau on his 100th birthday.

Mr. Stafford was born on June 28, 1915 in Zadock, Missouri. After sixth grade, Mr. Stafford went to work for his father who was a farmer. He lived on the family farm until he met his wife Bernice at her church in Vanduser, Missouri. He asked for her hand in marriage at the age of 19. In 1942, the couple moved to Cape Girardeau where he has made a home for 68 years and began working for Commercial Transport as a truck driver.

On March 14, 1945, Mr. Stafford was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II. After 19 weeks of training at Fort Hood, he was sent across the Pacific to the Philippines before eventually being transferred to Tokyo, Japan. He spent a year in Tokyo at the personnel office driving soldiers. Mr. Stafford was honorably discharged on May 18, 1946, and was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal for his dedication and service.

After his daughters left home, he and his wife lived a quiet life until Bernice passed away at the age of 91 on November 6th, 2004. He has seven grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren and now lives at the Missouri Veterans Home in Cape Girardeau.

For his service to our nation, and all that he has accomplished over the last century, it is my pleasure to honor Mr. Stafford before the United States House of Representatives on his 100th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF HAROLD HOLZER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Harold Holzer who has had an extraordinary and distinguished career as a communications director and historian. He is retiring after 23 years of invaluable service to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the largest and most comprehensive art museum in the western hemisphere. Mr. Holzer helped broaden the media visibility of the Museum both here and abroad. In addition to his day job at the Museum, Mr. Holzer is widely considered one of the preeminent authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. Mr. Holzer's impact on New York's civic and cultural life has been profound and his contributions to our understanding of the Civil War era have been incalculable.

Mr. Holzer began his career as a reporter and later editor for The Manhattan Tribune, going on to become political press secretary first for Bella Abzug during her campaigns for Senate and Mayor, and then for Mario Cuomo's Gubernatorial campaign. He served as a government speechwriter for Mayor Abraham Beame, leaving to become the public affairs director for WNET. From 1984 to 1992, he served Governor Mario Cuomo as Special Counselor to the Director of Economic Development and Executive Vice President for Public Affairs at the New York State Urban Development Corporation (NYSUDC), which was then involved in overseeing the construction of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

In 1992, Mr. Holzer became Chief Communications Officer for the Metropolitan Museum. Four years later, he was promoted to Vice President and, in 2005, he was named the Senior Vice President for Public Affairs. In this capacity, Mr. Holzer has been responsible for supervising external affairs and overseeing publicity, marketing, audience research and tourism promotion for the Museum, and has served as chief spokesman on all local, national, and international issues. During his tenure, Mr. Holzer helped persuade government grantors to deliver unprecedented levels of funding to the Museum, which have, among other things, supported educational programs and critical improvements to the Museum's physical plant. He also created broadcast marketing partnerships with radio, television and the Internet, magnifying the Museum's outreach.

A prolific writer, Mr. Holzer has authored, coauthored, and edited over forty books on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Some of his works include: Lincoln at Cooper Union, The Lincoln Image, and the 2015 Lincoln Prize-winning Lincoln and the Power of the Press. In 2008, Mr. Holzer received the National Humanities Medal from President George W. Bush, the highest recognition America awarded to individuals or institutions that have had a positive impact on the nation's understanding of the humanities.

Mr. Holzer authored Lincoln: How Abraham Lincoln Ended Slavery in America, the young-adult companion to Steven Spielberg's Academy Award-winning biopic, Lincoln. Mr. Holzer also served as a script consultant on the adapted screenplay for the film.

President Bill Clinton appointed Mr. Holzer as cochairman of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which oversaw the planning of the national celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday. Mr. Holzer served in that capacity from 2000–2009. He now serves as Chairman of the successor organization, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

Mr. Holzer lives in Rye, New York with his wife, Edith. They have two daughters and a grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Harold Holzer's talent, dedication and erudition. His contributions to our nation's civic and cultural life, as well as our understanding of President Lincoln and the extraordinary era when he was President will last long into the future.

TSCA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2576, the TSCA Modernization Act. While this bill is not perfect, it is a good step toward better protecting Americans and our environment from dangerous chemicals.

Current law, the Toxic Substance Control Act, passed in the 1970s and has been a failure. While its name implies that it gave the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to ensure the safety of many chemicals, in reality, its scope is severely limited and the standards for action are unreasonably high. It also restricted testing to thousands of chemicals that were already in use when it passed. Since it was enacted, EPA has partially regulated only five chemicals under the law.

Democrats have been calling for TSCA reform for many years, and today we are considering the first meaningful change. While it does not go as far as previous Democratic proposals, it represents significant progress over current law. It makes it easier for EPA to test chemicals using a risk-based approach, explicitly protects vulnerable populations, and provides more resources to get the job done. It also allows EPA to move more quickly to address the most toxic and harmful chemicals.

Our work is not done—the Senate is finalizing its proposal and we will have to reconcile our differences. I will continue to advocate for strong protections for American families and our environment. I am voting yes today to take an important step forward in that effort.

REAFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING A NUCLEAR ARMED IRAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today our nation faces challenges across the globe, but there is no threat more central to current world order than the prospect of a nuclear armed Iran.

Tuesday, June 30, is the self-imposed negotiating deadline for the P5+1 over Iran's illicit nuclear program. At this critical juncture I am thankful for the Administration's repeated promise that no deal is better than a bad deal.

I want to remind my colleagues why this issue is so vital.

Even a threshold nuclear Iran—where they have a short breakout capacity—would lead to massive nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. We have already seen troubling statements from regional partners like Saudi Arabia about developing or purchasing nuclear weapons of their own.

Mr. Speaker, I don't need to tell you the consequences of possible proliferation of the world's most dangerous weapon in the world's most dangerous region.

Just look at the destructive role Iran is already playing in this chaotic region without nuclear weapons.

Iran is the most active state sponsor of terrorism, sending weapons and support to Hamas and Hezbollah. It is actively assisting rebel advances in Yemen, it has long destabilized Iraq and Lebanon, and it is propping up the brutal Assad regime in Syria. Not to mention that this Iranian regime systematically violates its own citizen's basic human rights.

That is why there is broad bipartisan support for preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, and on both sides of the aisle, we hope for a diplomatic solution to this crisis.

But we must be vigilant and ensure that if a deal is reached it truly is a good deal that verifiably prevents all Iranian pathways to a bomb.

Such a deal must include five key components: robust and intrusive inspections, phased sanctions relief that comes only as a result of Iranian compliance, dismantlement of key nuclear infrastructure, disclosure of possible military dimensions of the program, and a long timeline that gives the international community confidence that it can hold Iran accountable.

My colleagues and I will be watching closely and stand ready to scrutinize any final agreement to ensure the future security of our nation and that of our allies in the region.

HONORING DANIEL ''DANNY'' DARIO VILLANUEVA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel ''Danny'' Dario Villanueva, a dear friend, successful athlete and businessman, and champion of the little guy. Danny passed away unexpectedly at the age of 77. His death is a deep loss for Myrna, his wife, his sons Danny Jr. and Jim, and his extended family. Losing Danny brings equal sadness to all who believe in the American Dream and seek role models willing to answer that call to duty.

In reflecting on Danny Villanueva's accomplishments, the list is long. The better question to ask is: what didn't Danny accomplish. From his humble beginnings in Tucumcari, New Mexico—the ninth of twelve children of migrant missionary workers—and throughout the rest of his life, Danny pioneered a remarkable

path in professional sports, the broadcasting industry and the investment and philanthropic world.

As a kicker for the Los Angeles Rams, Danny was one of the first Latino players in the National Football League. His successful and record-breaking career there, and later with the Dallas Cowboys, helped open the door to a sportscaster job with the KMEX television station in Los Angeles, which at the time was a fledgling Spanish-language broadcaster. Today, KMEX serves as the West Coast flagship for the Univision network.

But Danny didn't just stand in front of the KMEX camera, he stood behind it as a journalist, a news director, a general manager and its President. He eventually became an owner of KMEX and the network which we know as Univision. In all those roles, he committed himself to serving the community of Los Angeles. Whether it was broadcasting that was happening in the city through a Latino lens or raising funds to help new immigrant families, or victims of natural disaster, Danny was their voice and their advocate. And, putting his money where his mouth is, he became one of LA's true philanthropists.

Even after he retired from broadcasting, his passion for philanthropic work continued through his founding of an investment firm focused on helping small and family businesses and the establishment of a scholarship fund at his alma mater New Mexico State University. He and Myrna remained actively involved in many charitable causes throughout his life.

Danny was a leader, an innovator, a loving husband and father and an incredible example to many of us of a man determined to do good as he did well. Without Danny, the Spanish-language news and broadcasting industry in the U.S. would not be what it is today. Without Danny, there would be no Univision, no Telemundo or many of the other broadcasting giants that exist today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and share some of Danny Villanueva's successes because they are not just his, they belong to us all. For anyone who aspires to the American Dream, Danny's life and legacy show us that with hard work, compassion and a sense of humor, anything is possible. Danny will remain in our hearts not only as a friend, but as a champion to his family, his community and to all the little guys who believe in hard work and relentless effort.

To Myrna, Danny Jr. and Jim, we extend our warmest affection and gratitude for sharing with us this champion of America. Through our collective success we will do justice to the memory of Daniel Dario Villanueva.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House voted on H.R. 1190, the Protecting Seniors Access to Medicare Act. Although I was not present for the vote, I wanted to make my position on this bill clear. While I strongly support repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, and have long supported bipartisan legislation to do so, I would have voted against this bill due to the attachment of a partisan and misguided amendment that undermines another important piece of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

I share the concern of many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that the IPAB relinquishes control of Medicare provider reimbursements to an unelected group, which is problematic to me for a number of reasons. Congress has helped shape a Medicare system that reflects the unique care needs of varying demographics, and differences between regions and states. Further, this system has been developed with transparency and accountability in congressional debates. And, reforms like better coordination of care and enhanced waste, fraud, and abuse abatement measures have already helped slow Medicare spending to historic lows.

Since the enactment of the ACA, the Congressional Budget Office has consistently found that other measures in the law have helped keep health care spending at record lows. While I remain committed to strengthening Medicare's finances for current and future generations, I do not believe that IPAB is the best strategy to achieve this goal. While annual spending bills passed by Congress over the last several years have denied funding to support IPAB thus rendering it inoperable, I agree that the best course of action would be to remove it entirely from the law. That is why I have consistently cosponsored bipartisan legislation to do just that.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the Republican-led House chose to take a highly bipartisan bill and turn it, once again, into a highly partisan vehicle to further undermine a key component of the ACA. The amendment that was added to the bill as it headed to the floor would tie repeal to gutting the Prevention and Public Health Fund section of the law. Funds from this section of the ACA go towards Alzheimer's Disease Prevention Education and Outreach, towards the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, to the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, and to the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention fund, among other programs in 2015 alone.

I strongly support the ACA and its implementation, but agree with many of my colleagues that it is by no means perfect. It is time for this chamber to work on a truly bipartisan basis to strengthen and improve the law. I stand ready to work across the aisle to repeal IPAB and to make other commonsense changes to the law—but hope that we can do so in a thoughtful and balanced way, which unfortunately this bill did not.

HONORING ALBERTA LENTE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alberta Lente, a respected elder and patriarch of a proud family from the Pueblo of Isleta.

Alberta had amazing role models in her parents, Esquipula and Juanita Jojola, who raised nine children while maintaining several jobs. Coming from a big family meant that Alberta had to make sacrifices. She started attending business school aspiring to one day work as a professional secretary, but her father urged her to come home and help with the household finances.

The news was devastating for Alberta, but she forged forward, knowing that her family needed her support. She put her dreams on hold, came home, and took on the role of primary caregiver for the family. From 1945 to 1984, Alberta worked as a seamstress for the famous "Tiwa Weavers" and later went on to work for the Pueblo of Isleta Elder Center as a delivery driver and site manager all while caring for her children and younger siblings.

She never failed to carry out her commitment to her family. Every morning, Alberta would wake up and catch the 6:30 a.m. bus from Isleta Pueblo to work. On a typical day she would not return home until 7:00 p.m. and always made sure she had enough groceries to feed the family. Often her children would find her up in the middle of night fixing dolls or clothing, trying to earn extra money for the family.

At age 93, Alberta has no plans to slow down any time soon. Incredibly, she has won more than 80 medals in soccerkicks, shuffleboard and many more events in the New Mexico Senior Olympics. Today, Alberta prepares for her 5th National Senior Olympics and hopes to add a second Gold medal to her collection.

It is clear that Alberta's zest for life is endless and her dedication to her family is one of a kind. She reminds us to cherish our family, fight for those we love, and continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. Alberta is truly a remarkable woman, and I join all her family and friends in celebrating her accomplishments.

FIRST LIEUTENANT CLAYTON NATTIER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor First Lieutenant Clayton Nattier, Army Air Corps, and United States Air Force for his service to our country.

First Lieutenant Nattier served in the United States Army Air Corps from January 1942 to December 1945. During his time as a pilot, he served in the United Kingdom with the 1st Bomb Division, 8th Air Force, 306th Bomb Group, and 369th Bomb Squadron.

During his 16th combat mission, in September 1944, his B–17 aircraft was badly damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire, and the crew was unable to control a fire in the cockpit. At that time, he and five other crew members parachuted out of the aircraft mid-flight. Lieutenant Nattier was captured by enemy forces and sent to the German Prisoner of War camp, Stalag Luft I in Barth, Western Pomerania (Prussia) after spending three weeks in a German hospital. The Prisoner of War camp was liberated by the Russian Army on April 30, 1945, and in December 1945 he separated from active duty. Lieutenant Nattier continued to serve in the Air Force Reserves until 1952.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart Medal, the Air Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Prisoner of War

Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars and the World War II Victory Medal. After his service, Lieutenant Nattier has been involved in the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Mile High Chapter, as Chapter Commander, State Department Commander and National Convention Treasurer. He continues to be active in the Eighth Air Force Historical Society.

Through his courageous service, Lieutenant Nattier charted the path for future generations to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Lieutenant Nattier for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to any and all attempts to remove the State flag of Mississippi from the Capitol grounds.

Simply put, the flag that flies over the State of Mississippi is an issue to be decided by the people of Mississippi.

This is not an issue for Congress. Congress cannot decide which flag flies over the Capitol of Mississippi. Congress cannot decide which state flags hang in the Capitol of the United States. Congress cannot simply decide for the people of Mississippi.

Our flag is not an issue for the media, not an issue for one party or the other, not an issue for outsiders who wish to force certain beliefs on others.

Our flag is an issue for the people of Mississippi and the people of Mississippi alone.

HONORING MR. JIM TUDOR

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Tudor for his many years of contributions to the convenience store industry.

Mr. Tudor has worked at the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores since January of 1987, and currently serves as President. Before that, Mr. Tudor also spent nine years at 7–Eleven. Over the years, Mr. Tudor has received various Pigeon Awards from The Pigeon Committee. He was honored as the 2012 Annual Golden Pigeon. He also received the Liberty Award from Brown & Williamson in 2000, and was recognized by James Magazine as one of the Top Ten Lobbyist or trade organizations for three straight years 2012–2014.

Mr. Tudor is very active in the Covington Rotary and previously the South DeKalb Rotary. He has been extremely active with Georgia Youth Assembly, the YMCA, and various other youth groups as a mentor and leader. Mr. Tudor has served numerous roles at his church and is a devout Christian man with impeccable morals and values.

Mr. Tudor graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1972, and spent two years in the U.S. Army. Mr. Tudor and his wife, Sandra, have four children—James, Kelly, Bobby and Bill—and five grandchildren. Upon retirement, Jim and Sandra plan to roam the countryside in their retro-style 2015 Mellow Yellow Winnebago.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Mr. Tudor's colleagues, family and friends in celebrating his many years of hard work and dedication to the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores and his community.

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRISTOWN CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Morristown Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary.

Due to the exclusion from men's organizations that were formed to express patriotism for our nation, a group of women took it upon themselves to create an organization that was exclusively for women and their love for this country. Thus, on October 11, 1890, the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution was born right in our nation's capital.

Shortly after the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded, New Jersey organized its own State Society of the DAR on April 29, 1891. The Morristown Chapter was created four years later in 1895, making it one of the 47 chapters located in the state of New Jersey. In 1999, the Short Hills Chapter of DAR merged with the Morristown Chapter.

The Morristown DAR Chapter house played an important role in our country's history. The Schulyer-Hamilton House, originally known as the Jabez Campfield House, was built in 1760 in Morristown. The Campfield House is where the surgeon general of the Continental Army, Dr. John Cochran, quartered and is where founding father Alexander Hamilton also courted his wife Betsy Schuyler in 1780. Schuyler was the niece of the surgeon general. In 1923, the Campfield house was bought by the Morristown Chapter of the DAR and the members decided to name their new Chapter House in honor of Betsy Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton.

The DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer organization. They focus on promoting patriotism, preserving American history and future, and supporting education for children. On a national level the DAR host various summer camps for youth. That educates them on topics such as, the textile industry. They also provide citizens of all ages with a lecture series called Tuesday Talks.

The Morristown Chapter has been devoted to keeping up with these objectives as well. Throughout the community the Morristown Chapter of the DAR has volunteered at the annual Morristown Fall Festival and local DAR schools. They provide numerous opportunities for the advancement of children including but not limited to, The Christopher Columbus Essay Contest, scholarship for high school seniors in New Jersey, and the Betty Bradbury Vail Scholarship.

Additionally, to carry on their commitment to honoring all veterans in the Morristown area, the Morristown chapter of the DAR will host a luncheon on Saturday, November 14, 2015 to celebrate their 120th Anniversary as well as the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morristown Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, New Jersey as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary.

JOHN DAVID CROW—AGGIE HEISMAN WINNER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, rough tough, real stuff, Texas A&M. The mantra of John David Crow. The man known by all three of his names, with a distinctive gaze and commanding presence is the first Aggie Heisman Winner who left the piney Louisiana Woods to play football at Texas A&M University—and the rest is history.

Crow has been tough since birth. Born into the Great Depression in Marion, Louisiana on July 8, 1935, a midwife struggled to remove the umbilical cord wrapped tightly around his neck, which resulted in nerve damage—preventing him from ever being able to shut his left eye.

After almost dying from pneumonia at the age of two, Crow grew into his larger-than-life stature. At 6'2, 215 pounds he was made to be a football player.

Crow arrived in College Station, Texas in 1954 to play under football legend Paul "Bear" Bryant, who he had never even heard of. The newly married freshman watched two buses take the football team to training camp in Junction and only one bus return—half empty. But he wasn't scared. Crow suited up to play anyways.

A new husband and father, Crow helped lead the Aggies to a conference championship and bowl game after coming off a 1–9 season.

In three seasons, he gained 1,455 yards rushing on 296 attempts, with 22 touchdowns. His stats may not have put him at the top of the leaderboard, but coach Bear Bryant came up with more appropriate and realistic statistics to showcase Crow, which he called "Players Run Over."

When Crow was told he was a Heisman candidate, he confessed that he had never heard of the award. Bryant rallied behind the football player saying, "If he doesn't win the Heisman, they ought to stop giving it," the saying stuck. In 1957, in almost a landslide vote, John David Crow won the Heisman Trophy. The first Aggie to win and the only Heisman Trophy winner to ever play for Bryant.

Crow went on to be a running back in the NFL for the Cardinals in Chicago and St. Louis as well as the San Francisco 49ers. After retiring in 1968, he joined Bryant on the field again as an assistant coach at the University of Alabama. He went back to the NFL

as an assistant coach with Cleveland and San Diego. In 1983, he returned back to his maroon alma mater as the assistant athletic director under Jackie Sherrill.

Crow was a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. For as much success as Crow knew, he has also knew deep sorrow. His son, John David Jr, born while his father was playing at Texas A&M and also played under Bear Bryant, was killed in 1994.

John David Crow passed away on June 18th, joining his son.

The statue of Crow outside the Bright Athletic Complex at Texas A&M University accurately portrays the man whose name is synonymous with Aggie Football. It depicts the strapping Louisiana paper mill teenager who showed up in Texas unintimidated, unafraid, and more than ready to bring pride to a small Texas town.

They just don't make them like John David Crow anymore—rough tough, real stuff, Texas A&M. "Gig—Em Aggies"

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JIM TUDOR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional business leader and outstanding citizen, Mr. Jim Tudor, on the occasion of his retirement as President of the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores.

Mr. Tudor has spent the last 28 years of his life advancing the interests of small business owners and workers in Georgia. After spending nine years working for 7–Eleven, Mr. Tudor began working for the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores in 1987. As a representative of convenience stores across the state, Mr. Tudor worked tirelessly to promote a welcoming, inclusive, and world-class business atmosphere in hundreds of Georgia stores. His smile and humor were familiar to the hundreds of store workers he represented on a daily basis.

Mr. Tudor's service to convenience store owners and workers earned distinction for its vigor and persistence. Along with receiving the Liberty Award from Brown & Williamson in 2000, Mr. Tudor is the recipient of various Pigeon Awards from the Pigeon Committee, a group of fellow lobbyists in Georgia. In 2012, his work to ensure the passage of Sunday alcohol sales in the state earned him the Golden Pigeon award, recognizing him as the state's most influential business advocate. Additionally, Mr. Tudor was named by James Magazine as one of the top ten lobbyist or trade organizations for three straight years from 2012–2014.

A 1972 graduate of the University of Cincinnati, Mr. Tudor has dedicated his life to serving his community. His commitment to public service has persisted since his service in the U.S. Army as a young man. He has been extremely active in the Georgia Youth Assembly, the YMCA, and the Rotary Club of Covington. Always a mentor to those who worked and lived around him, Mr. Tudor possesses the rare quality of humble leadership.

Mr. Tudor's Christian faith has always instilled within him a desire to positively shape the community in which he lives. As a leader in his church, he incorporates his faith into his commitment to public service regularly.

After retirement, Mr. Tudor will enjoy spending time with his four children, James, Kelly, Bobby and Bill, and as "Poppy" to his five grandchildren. He plans to travel across the country with his wife, Sandra, in their retro-style 2015 Winnebago. Mr. Tudor has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would be possible without the love and support of the family he cherishes so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Mr. Jim Tudor upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career spanning nearly three decades with the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores.

TRIBUTE TO PARKER HOWE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Parker Howe from Waukee High School for winning the Class 2A Co-ed Golf Doubles title along with his partner, Paige Seiser.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them and their families in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Paige and Parker on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in their education and high school golf career.

BIOGRAPHY OF JERRY DUNFEY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the biography of Jerry Dunfey, who is celebrating his 80th birthday.

GLOBAL CITIZENS CIRCLE

Jerry Dunfey, co-founder with his brothers of Dunfey Hotels, which now is Omni Hotels International, also is the co-founder and president of Global Citizens Circle. Since 1974, hundreds of Circles globally featured prominent leaders engaging in dialogue with 20,000 citizens from all sectors. Circles have been held in Belfast, Soweto, Jerusalem, Havana, and in cities throughout the U.S.

Dunfey and his wife Nadine Hack have a deep history of involvement in the U.S. civil rights movement. Friends of the entire King family, they served on the board of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Dunfey starting alongside of "Daddy" King. They maintained close relationships with many of the movement's leaders, including actively campaigning in Georgia during Andy Young's political career. They read a Psalm at Coretta Scott King's family funeral and were honorary pall bearers at her much larger public funeral.

They also have profound ties with the leaders of South Africa's liberation movement. He's been in South Africa on countless occasions including as a member of Senator Edward M. Kennedy's 1985 fact-finding mission. With his wife, they were guests of state at President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's 1994 inauguration they led a 1998 delegation of 61 democracy activists from seven countries on an eight-day visit; he was honored with the 2008 National Order, Grand Companion of OR Tambo, which is that nation's equivalent of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom; and in 2013 he attended Mandela's funeral in Qunu as a VIP family guest.

He is on the boards of the Joslin Diabetes Center, the South Africa Development Fund, and with his brothers is a founder of The American Ireland Fund. While it was in existence, he was on the board of the International Defense and Aid Fund for South Africa. He is the recipient of numerous awards from myriad organizations ranging from the 2003 Northern Ireland Cross-Community Honor to the 2008 Hoteliers of the Year, just among several of the countless times he's been honored.

He is the 11th of the 12 children of Leroy and Catherine Dunfey, who met in the textile mills of Lowell, MA, and he worked with his siblings from a very early age in his parents' luncheonette in that city. In the 1940s and 1950s he and his brothers operated a number of restaurants, later acquiring several small New England inns and by the 1960s founding Dunfey Hotels. The Parker House, the oldest continuously operating hotel in America, was among its flagship hotels. Shortly after acquiring that hotel in Boston is when the family launched their inaugural Circle.

During those same decades, he and his family were extremely active in Democratic politics. John F. Kennedy announced his presidential campaign from a Dunfey Hotel. Jerry's brother Bud served as the Northeast Coordinator of that campaign for which the entire Dunfey family campaigned actively. They were all invited to the President's 1963 Inauguration. A six-decade close relationship among the two families, including comparable activism with Bobby Kennedy, culminated in having the great honor to sit with his wife in the final hour of vigil over Ted Kennedy's casket at the JFK Library before the family brought the Senator to the church for his funeral service.

A 1956 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Dunfey has five children—one who died in 1978 with four surviving, all happily married—and six grandchildren. He and his wife Nadine were extremely proud that all three generations of their family actively campaigned for President Barack Obama. Their two oldest grandchildren, for whom this was the first time in their lives to vote, participated in the Maine caucuses. Dunfey continues as an activist with Friends of Barack Obama.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 377, I was absent due to travel for personal reasons and in connection with my official duties.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE WYNN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise to offer a tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American, Jeanette Wynn, who continues to act as a mentor and leader in the community at large. On June 21, 2015, Jeanette celebrated her 67th birthday.

We exalt Mrs. Jeanette Wynn first for the determination and perseverance that she has exhibited throughout her life. Jeanette's rise to her current title as the president of AFSCME deserves recognition. In September 1970, she began work at Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee. Here, in the state's largest public mental institution, she treated the mentally ill and criminally insane. Her exceptional work was recognized and as a rehabilitative specialist, President Wynn was responsible not only for treatment of mentally ill individuals but also played a role in the judicial process. Mrs. Wynn was given the responsibility of evaluating whether they were competent to stand trial. President Wynn was one of the first state employees to join AFSCME in 1976. She was a member of Council 79's first executive board and was the first secretary/treasurer of Local 1963. In 1981, she was elected Local 1963's second president. In 1983, she earned her first AFSCME Florida statewide office as Council 79 secretary/treasurer.

As Council 79 secretary/treasurer, President Wynn served until 1996, the same year she won a spot as International Vice President Caribbean. In 1998, President Wynn ascended to Council 79's highest office and has distinguished herself in leading fights to help all working families. Drawing on her experiences in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, President Wynn played a crucial role in forging a coalition of African-American and Latino farm workers that led to the successful organizing drive in 1998 at Quincy Farms. The United Farm Workers later awarded President Wynn for her incredible effort. Though President Wynn is celebrated for her accomplishments, we must not forget her effect on the community at large. The lives of those directly and indirectly affected by the actions and oversight of Mrs. Jeanette Wynn are undoubtedly better. Today we pay tribute to a strong woman, a compassionate leader, and a tireless worker.

LEE KLEIN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE CHILDREN'S CANCER CARING CENTER

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Lee Klein on her 50th anniversary at the Children's Cancer Caring Center, or CCCC. Lee has dedicated her life to caring for South Florida children and their families who are affected with cancer by providing them comfort and support as they fight the deadly disease and return to a sense of normalcy.

Lee currently serves as CEO and Chairman of the CCCC Board. She began her career in 1956 as a charity worker for children's causes, and nine years later, founded a treatment clinic for cancer-stricken children which today we call CCCC. She also serves as Patient Program Director at the center, where she becomes personally involved with the patients and their families. Lee has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the 2004 Junior League of Miami "Women who make a difference" award and 2003 Big Brothers Big Sisters "Miracle Makers" award.

Mr. Speaker, these children and their families battling cancer deserve all the love and support they can get during the unfathomable difficulties that no young person should have to endure. I am proud to recognize that on June 27, Lee will have served the Center and our South Florida community for 50 years, touching the lives of thousands of our friends and neighbors. I wish her the best of luck in the future and offer my sincere gratitude for the work she has done.

CORPORAL JOHN PEDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Corporal John Pederson, United States Army, for his service to our country.

Corporal Pederson served in the United States Army from June 1944 to February 1947. During his service as a rifleman and infantryman, he was assigned to the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment. After Corporal Pederson's arrival in France, he was transferred to the 7th Army, and participated as a member of "Task Force Linden" near Strasbourg, France.

On January 18, 1945, in the Battle of Sessenheim, he was captured by the German Army and sent to the German Prison camp, Stalag 5A, in Malschbach Ludwigsburg Wurttemberg 49–09. He was liberated by the British Army in April 1945, and eventually returned to the U.S. after being discharged in February 1947.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Since retiring, he has been active in the American Ex-Prisoners of War—Mile High Chapter where he currently serves as Commander of the Department of Colorado and Commander of the Mile High Chapter.

Through his courageous service, Corporal Pederson charted the path for future generations to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Corporal Pederson for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF JIM TUDOR'S RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of a dear friend and colleague, Mr. Jim Tudor. Over the last twenty years, Mr. Tudor has left an indelible impression on the State of Georgia through his entrepreneurial advances and philanthropic endeavors.

Whether it be in his church, his community, or business, Mr. Tudor strives to turn any challenge into an opportunity. In 1986, Mr. Tudor moved from a promising career as the Zone Manager for 7-Eleven to serve as a lobbyist for the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores, marking the beginning of a career that would be recognized as among the most prolific in Georgia's capitol community.

Mr. Tudor's contributions have been recognized numerous times throughout his illustrious career. In 2000, Mr. Tudor received the Liberty Award from Brown & Williamson. Later, Mr. Tudor was honored with various Pigeon Awards from The Pigeon Committee, a group of fellow lobbyists for the State of Georgia. For three straight years, Mr. Tudor was named by James Magazine as one of the Top Ten Lobbyist for trade organizations.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Tudor has used his success to empower those around him. Well known by his friends and family for a seemingly inexhaustible amount of energy, Mr. Tudor is an extremely active member of the Covington Rotary Club. On many weeknights he can be found volunteering for the Georgia Youth Assembly, the YMCA, and various other groups as a mentor and leader, where he passes on the practical skills he has accumulated through years of shaping Georgia's business climate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only honor the impressive achievements of this man, but also to commend his compassionate contributions to my Congressional district and to the great State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in venerating this distinguished individual.

HONORING DR. JAY L. SCHAUBEN, PHARMD, DABAT, FAACT UPON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF POISON CONTROL CENTERS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Jay L. Schauben, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT, and his election as President of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), As President, Dr. Schauben will oversee the national agency responsible for the accreditation of poison centers and the certification of its specialists. Throughout his career, he has completed four terms on the AAPCC Board of Directors. I am honored to

recognize Dr. Schauben as the first Floridian to be elected to this prestigious position.

In 1992, Dr. Schauben developed and implemented the Florida/U.S. Virgin Islands Poison Information Center in Jacksonville, Florida. Today, the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center—Jacksonville continues to work in improving the three-center Statewide Florida Poison Information Center Network. Dr. Schauben has been Director of Jacksonville center, located at UF–Health Jacksonville Medical Center, since 1996. His work is both widely known and greatly admired. He holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine within the College of Medicine and the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research in the College of Pharmacy, University of Florida Health Science Center. Since 1987, he has held board-certification in Clinical Toxicology by the American Board of Applied Toxicology and was awarded the status as a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. Dr. Schauben also has served as President and At-Large Member to the Board of Directors of the American Board of Applied Toxicology. He is a member of the International Society for Disease Surveillance.

Dr. Schauben is a recognized expert witness in the field of clinical toxicology and often consults with federal and state agencies on issues relating to toxic exposures, poisonings and overdoses. Under the National Disaster Medical System, he held a Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security rank of Deputy Commander for the Florida-4 Disaster Medical Assistance Team. In addition, he has authored 54 journal articles and 21 chapters in major medical textbooks and is the Associate Editor for the Advanced HAZMAT Life Support Course.

Although larger states have more than one center, the nation has 55 poison control centers that cover every state, Puerto Rico, the Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. Callers are provided free, 24-hour professional advice on poisons and treatments. Our Jacksonville Center serves a population of approximately six million people and receives 160–200 calls per day from Floridians in 42 northern and eastern coastal counties and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Florida/USVI Poison Information Center—Jacksonville, under the leadership of Dr. Schauben, conducts a full spectrum of poison prevention educational programs for the general public and health care professionals. The Center serves as a teaching facility for clinical and medical toxicology fellowships; and facilitates academic rotations for nursing, medical and pharmacy students; pharmacy, emergency medicine and other health professional residents in training; pediatric critical care fellows and pediatric emergency medicine fellows.

One of the highlights of the year in Jacksonville is the children's poster contest for National Poison Prevention Week. Jay and his staff have also instituted a video contest, and kids can earn a Deputy badge by completing the Poison Patrol Checklist.

I salute the dedicated hard work of Dr. Schauben, and his well-deserved recognition by fellow colleagues in electing him President of the Board of Directors of the AAPCC.

SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of small businesses, American manufacturing and good jobs right here at home. I rise to support reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

The simple reality is that 95% of the globe's consumers live outside of America's borders. Therefore, our ability to export American products around the world has a direct impact on many small, medium and large companies' ability to create and sustain jobs. Unfortunately, many potential global customers are not able to secure the necessary financing to complete a purchase from an American company because of the instability of their region or other circumstances.

In order to connect these American exporters with their buyers around the globe, the Ex-Im Bank can provide vital loans to complete transactions with American companies that otherwise may not have occurred. The economic impacts here at home are significant. Last year, the Ex-Im Bank provided financing for $27.5 billion in U.S. exports, supporting more than 160,000 jobs. Importantly, nearly 90% of Ex-Im transactions involved U.S. small businesses last year, supporting nearly $11 billion in exports.

Some have called for ending the Ex-Im Bank on the grounds that it competes with the private market—that's just not the case. The Ex-Im Bank simply levels the playing field and fills the gaps that exist in the private credit market. Additionally, the Ex-Im Bank brings in a surplus of dollars to the U.S. Treasury each year, which isn't something we can say about a whole lot of Federal agencies. Last year, Ex-Im sent nearly $700 million back to the Treasury as a surplus. And over the past two decades, this surplus has been nearly $7 billion.

Ex-Im supports good paying jobs in Illinois, and not only at great companies like Caterpillar and John Deere, but also at small and medium sized businesses such as GSI Group in Assumption, IL and Litania Sports Group in Champaign, IL. With the June 30th deadline looming, we simply cannot afford to put these jobs at risk and we must reauthorize the Ex-Im bank. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting reauthorization of the job-creating Ex-Im bank.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4619–S4657

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1677–1703, S.J. Res. 17, and S. Res. 214–216. **Pages S4648–49**

Measures Reported:

S. 1180, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 114–73)

S. 1695, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. (S. Rept. No. 114–74)

H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–75)

S. Res. 204, recognizing June 20, 2015 as ''World Refugee Day''.

S. Res. 207, recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

S. Res. 211, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Srebrenica, with amendments.

S. 1643, to require a report on actions to secure the safety and security of dissidents housed at Camp Liberty, Iraq, with an amendment. **Page S4646**

Measures Passed:

Boys Town Centennial Commemorative Coin Act: Senate passed H.R. 893, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town. **Page S4656**

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation: Senate passed S. 230, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4656–57**

McConnell (for Murkowski) Amendment No. 2077, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S4656–57**

National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month and Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 215, designating the month of June 2015 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month'' and June 27, 2015, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day''. **Page S4657**

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Secretary of the Senate re-engross the Senate amendment to H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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, with the following: Strike section 636. **Pages S4620–21**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Cotton be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S4657**

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S4657**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate adjourn until the following dates and times to convene for pro forma session only with no business being conducted; that following each pro forma session, Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session, unless the House adopts the provisions of S. Con. Res. 19, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the

House of Representatives; at 10 a.m., on Friday, June 26, 2015, at 2 p.m., on Tuesday June 30, 2015, and at 10 a.m., on Friday, July 3, 2015; and that Senate adjourn on Friday, July 3, 2015, until 2:30 p.m., on Tuesday, July 7, 2015. **Page S4657**

Messages from the House: **Page S4646**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S4646, S4657**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S4646–48**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4649–50**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4650–55**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4644–46**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S4655**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S4655–56**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4656**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:50 a.m. and adjourned at 2:51 p.m., until 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4657.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine country of origin labeling and trade retaliation, focusing on what's at stake for America's farmers, ranchers, businesses, and consumers, after receiving testimony from Barry Carpenter, North American Meat Institute, Washington, D.C.; Craig Hill, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Milo, on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation; Leo McDonnell, McDonnell Angus and Midland Bull Test, Rhame, North Dakota, on behalf of the United States Cattlemen's Association; Jaret Moyer, Kansas Livestock Association, Emporia; James Trezise, New York Wine and Grape Foundation, Canandaigua; and Christopher Cuddy, ADM Corn, Decatur, Illinois.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled, "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016", and

An original bill (S. 1695) entitled, "Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016".

GLOBAL IMPACT OF A GREEK DEFAULT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance concluded a hearing to examine economic crisis, focusing on the global impact of a Greek default, after receiving testimony from Desmond Lachman, American Enterprise Institute, and Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, Peterson Institute for International Economics, both of Washington, D.C.; Carmen M. Reinhart, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Matthew J. Slaughter, Dartmouth College Tuck School of Business, Hanover, New Hampshire.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1626, to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, improve safety, streamline rail project delivery, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1611, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1573, to establish regional weather forecast offices, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1298, to provide nationally consistent measures of performance of the Nation's ports, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1403, to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to promote sustainable conservation and management for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1551, to provide for certain requirements relating to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority stewardship transition, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1182, to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements;

S. 1250, to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

Routine lists in the Coast Guard.

FINANCING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the private sector, focusing on state innovations in financing transportation infrastructure,

after receiving testimony from Shailen Bhatt, Colorado Department of Transportation Executive Director, Denver; Mitchell E. Daniels, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana; David Narefsky, Mayer Brown LLP, Chicago, Illinois; and Baruch Feigenbaum, Reason Foundation, Los Angeles, California.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. Res. 204, recognizing June 20, 2015 as ''World Refugee Day'';

S. Res. 207, recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance;

S. 1643, to require a report on actions to secure the safety and security of dissidents housed at Camp Liberty, Iraq, with an amendment;

S. Res. 211, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Srebrenica, with amendments; and

The nominations of Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Monetary Fund, and Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, Glyn Townsend Davies, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, William A. Heidt, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Atul Keshap, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, Alaina B. Teplitz, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, David Hale, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to Mongolia, all of the Department of State.

JCPOA IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine evaluating key components of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran, after receiving testimony from David Albright, Institute for Science and International Security, and Ray Takeyh, Council on Foreign Relations, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jim Walsh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Security Studies Program, Cambridge.

FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY AND OPM DATA BREACH

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine federal cybersecurity and the Office of Personnel Management data breach, after receiving testimony from Katherine Archuleta, Director, and Patrick E. McFarland, Inspector General, both of the Office of Personnel Management; Tony Scott, Chief Information Officer, Office of Management and Budget; and Andy Ozment, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Cybersecurity and Communications.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine economic opportunity for our veterans and their families through entrepreneurship, after receiving testimony from Barb Carson, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development, Small Business Administration; Katrina Nowosielski, Storm Guard of La LLC, Lafayette, Louisiana; Albert Tansey, Tansey Electric, Manchester, New Hampshire; Laurie Sayles Artis, Civility Management Solutions, Bowie, Maryland; J. Michael Haynie, Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Syracuse, New York; Scott R. Daugherty, North Carolina Small Business Technology and Development Center, Raleigh, on behalf of the Association of Small Business Development Centers; and Charles W. McCaffrey, Veterans Business Outreach Center at Community Business Partnership, Springfield, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 61 public bills, H.R. 2886–2946; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 58–59; and H. Res. 340–346 were introduced. **Pages H4768–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4773–75**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 313, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated

at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–180);

H.R. 1069, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–181);

H.R. 1531, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–182);

H.R. 690, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule (H. Rept. 114–183);

H.R. 712, to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–184);

H.R. 2647, to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 114–185, Part 1);

H.R. 2647, to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act and improve forest management activities in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 114–185, Part 2);

H.R. 208, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy, with amendments (H. Rept. 114–186);

H.R. 2499, to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–187);

H.R. 2670, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–188); and

H.R. 1023, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control (H. Rept. 114–189). **Page H4768**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor Randy Bezet, Bayside Community Church, Bradenton, Florida. **Page H4655**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to H. Res. 340, returning to the Senate the bill (H.R. 1735), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, with the Senate amendment thereto. **Page H4657**

Question of Privilege: Representative Thompson (MS) rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. Subsequently, the Chair ruled that the resolution did present a question of the privileges of the House. **Pages H4662–63**

Agreed to the McCarthy motion to refer the resolution, H. Res. 341, to the Committee on House Administration by a yea-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 184 nays, Roll No. 385. **Pages H4663–64**

Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015: The House agreed to the Ryan (WI) motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1295, to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, and the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, by a yea-and-nay vote of 286 yeas to 138 nays, Roll No. 388. **Pages H4666–98**

H. Res. 338, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1295) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 251 yeas to 176 nays, Roll No. 386, after the previous question was ordered. **Pages H4657–62, H4664–65**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, June 23rd:

DHS FOIA Efficiency Act of 2015: H.R. 1615, amended, to direct the Chief FOIA Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain improvements in the implementation of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 423 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 387; and **Pages H4665–66**

CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2015: H.R. 2200, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of

Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 389. **Pages H4698–99**

Trade Act of 2015—Motion to Reconsider: Agreed by unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider the vote on the question of concurring in the matter comprising the remainder of title II of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, is laid on the table. **Page H4699**

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016: Agreed to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1735), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree with the Senate amendment and request a conference with the Senate thereon. **Page H4699**

The Chair appointed the following conferees on H.R. 1735: From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Thornberry, Forbes, Miller (FL), Wilson (SC), LoBiondo, Bishop (UT), Turner, Kline, Rogers (AL), Shuster, Conaway, Lamborn, Wittman, Hunter, Hartzler, Heck (NV), Wenstrup, Stefanik, Smith (WA), Loretta Sanchez (CA), Davis (CA), Langevin, Larsen (WA), Cooper, Bordallo, Courtney, Tsongas, Garamendi, Johnson (GA), Speier, Castro (TX), and Duckworth. **Page H4699**

The Chair announced that additional conferees will be appointed at a subsequent time. **Page H4699**

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016: The House began consideration of H.R. 2822, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. Further consideration was postponed. **Pages H4699–H4761**

Agreed to:

Poe (TX) amendment that redirects funding within the Bureau of Land Management by $1,000,000; **Pages H4730–31**

Flores amendment that increases funding for the Bureau of Land Management by $5,000,000, increases funding for the National Forest System by $5,000,000, and reduces funding for the Environmental Programs and Management by $12,307,693; **Pages H4731–32**

Clawson (FL) amendment that increases funding for US Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Management by $1,000,000 and reduces funding for Environmental Programs and Management by $1,200,000; **Pages H4735–36**

Clawson (FL) amendment that increases funding for Operation of the National Park System Everglades Restoration by $1,000,000 and reduces funding for Environmental Programs and Management by $1,250,000; **Pages H4736–37**

Sewell (AL) amendment that increases funding for Operation of the National Park System by $2,500,000, increases funding for Historic Preservation Fund by $4,500,000, and reduces funding for Office of the Secretary Departmental Operations by $7,000,000; **Pages H4637–38**

Gallego amendment that redirects funding within the National Park Service by $1,000,000; **Page H4738**

Tsongas amendment that redirects funding within Centennial Challenge projects and programs by $30,000,000; **Pages H4739–40**

Johnson (OH) amendment that increases funding, by offset, for State and Tribal Assistance Grants by $2,000,000; **Pages H4742–43**

Gosar amendment that increases funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education by $50,304,000 and reduces funding for Environmental Programs by $61,304,000; **Pages H4743–45**

Langevin amendment that reduces funding for the EPA Science and Technology by $1,625,000 and increases funding for the Environmental Programs and Management by $1,000,000; **Pages H4753–54**

Grayson amendment that redirects funding within Environmental Programs and Management by $2,212,000; **Page H4754**

Mooney (WV) amendment that reduces funding for Environmental Programs and Management by $2,000,000 and increases funding for the Office of Inspector General by $1,000,000; **Pages H4754–55**

Mooney (WV) amendment that reduces funding for the Environmental Programs and Management by $2,000,000 and applies the savings to the spending reduction account; **Page H4755**

Tipton amendment that increases funding, by offset, for Wildland Fire Management by $20,000,000; and **Pages H4755–56**

Benishek amendment that increases funding, by offset, for Capital Improvement and Maintenance by $2,000,000. **Page H4760**

Rejected:

Griffith amendment that sought to increase from 3 to 6 the Appalachian States with the greatest

amount of unfunded needs to meet the priorities of the Surface Mining Control Reclamation. **Page H4743**

Withdrawn:

Garamendi amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have reduced funding for the Management of Lands and Resources by $14,000,000 and increased funding for Surveys, Investigation and Research by $11,611,000; **Page H4732**

Yoho amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have reduced funding for the Bureau of Land Management by $25,325,000 and applied the savings to the spending reduction account; **Pages H4732–33**

Guinta amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding, by offset, for Land Acquisition by $16,000,000; **Page H4734**

Garamendi amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have redirected funding within the Land and Water Conservation Fund by $1,000,000; **Pages H4734–35**

Yoho amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have reduced funding for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund by $29,904,000 and applied the savings to the spending reduction account; **Page H4743**

Plaskett amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have redirected funding within Insular Affairs by $13,684,000; **Pages H4747–48**

Jackson Lee amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have reduced funding for the Office of Inspector General Salaries and Expenses by $2,000,000 and increased funding for the Smithsonian Institution Salaries and Expenses by $1,500,000; **Pages H4748–52**

Grijalva amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have struck section 120, prohibiting use of funds regarding legal trade and transport of ivory; **Pages H4752–53**

McNerney amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding for State and Tribal Assistance Grants by $861,000,000, increased funding for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds by $432,000,000, and increased funding for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds by $429,000,000; and **Pages H4757–58**

Beyer amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have struck the paragraph regarding EPA Administrator requirements to base agency policies and actions regarding air emissions from forest biomass on the principle that forest biomass emissions do not increase overall carbon dioxide accumulations in the atmosphere. **Pages H4759–60**

Point of Order sustained against:

Beyer amendment that sought to increase funding for the National Park Service maintenance backlog by $11,500,000,000; and **Pages H4738–39**

Kildee amendment (No. 10 printed in the Congressional Record of June 24, 2015) that sought to add a new proviso providing new eligibility requirements for grant recipients. **Pages H4758–59**

Proceedings Postponed:

Garamendi amendment that seeks to reduce funding for the Bureau of Land Management by $4,010,000 and increase funding for the US Fish and Wildlife Service by $3,902,000; **Pages H4733–34**

Capps amendment that seeks to increase funding, by offset, for Inland Oil Spill Programs by $5,434,000; **Pages H4740–42**

Sablan amendment that seeks to increase funding, by offset, for Insular Affairs by $5,000,000; and **Pages H4745–46**

Castor (FL) amendment that seeks to redirect funding within Environmental Programs and Management by $1,913,000. **Pages H4746–47**

H. Res. 333, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2822) and (H.R. 2042) was agreed to yesterday, June 24th.

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 19, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page H4761**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appears on pages H4699 and H4766.

Senate Referrals: S. 230 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4663–64, H4664, H4665, H4697–98, H4698. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to S. Con. Res. 19, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2015.

Committee Meetings

USDA MARKETING PROGRAMS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research held a hearing to review USDA marketing programs. Testimony was heard from Craig Morris, Deputy Administrator, Livestock Poultry and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture.

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Nuclear Deterrence in the 21st Century''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: Robert O. Work, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Deputy Secretary of Energy; and Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

UPDATE ON FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2014 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE REVIEW

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Update on Findings and Recommendations of the 2014 Department of Defense Nuclear Enterprise Review''. Testimony was heard from Yisroel Brumer, OSD/Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation; Vice Admiral Terry Benedict, USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs; Major General Jack Weinstein, USAF, Commander, 20th Air Force; and Major General Richard M. Clark, USAF, Commander, 8th Air Force.

LEGISLATIVE HEARING

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Examining Public Health Legislation: H.R. 2820, H.R. 1344, and H.R. 1462''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VEHICLE TO VEHICLE COMMUNICATIONS AND CONNECTED ROADWAYS OF THE FUTURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Vehicle to Vehicle Communications and Connected Roadways of the Future''. Testimony was heard from Nat Beuse, Associate Administrator, Vehicle Safety Research, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING CONTINUING ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION AT THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Examining Continuing Allegations of Discrimination and Retaliation at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau''. Testimony was heard from Florine Williams, Senior Equal Employment Specialist, Office of Civil Rights, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2494, the ''Global Anti-Poaching Act''. H.R. 2494 was ordered reported, as amended.

IS ACADEMIC FREEDOM THREATENED BY CHINA'S INFLUENCE ON U.S. UNIVERSITIES?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled ''Is Academic Freedom Threatened by China's Influence on U.S. Universities?''. Testimony was heard from Susan V. Lawrence, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Congressional Research Service; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 158, the ''Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act of 2015''; H.R. 455, the ''Northern Border Security Review Act''; H.R. 998, the ''Preclearance Authorization Act of 2015''; H.R. 1073, the ''Critical Infrastructure Protection Act''; H.R. 1634, the ''Border Security Technology Accountability Act of 2015''; H.R. 2127, the ''Securing Expedited Screening Act''; H.R. 2750, the ''Improved Security Vetting for Aviation Workers Act of 2015''; H.R. 2770, the ''Keeping our Travelers Safe and Secure Act''; H.R. 2786, the ''Cross-Border Rail Security Act of 2015''; and H.R. 2843, the ''TSA PreCheck Expansion Act''. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 158, H.R. 455, H.R. 998, H.R. 1073, H.R. 1634, H.R. 2127, H.R. 2750, H.R. 2770, and H.R. 2843. The following bill was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 2786.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing on H.R. 1107, the ''Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act''; H.R. 1406, the ''New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act''; H.R. 2273, to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; H.R. 2749, the ''Dam Authorization, Maintenance, and Safety (DAMS) Act of 2015''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Gosar and Lummis; Estevan Lopez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; Harry LaBonde, Director, Wyoming Water Development Office; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 1937, the ''National Strategic and Critical Minerals

Production Act of 2015''. Testimony was heard from Representative Amodei and public witnesses.

IRS: TIGTA UPDATE PART II

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''IRS: TIGTA Update Part II''. Testimony was heard from Russell George, Inspector General, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration; and Tim Camus, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

A REVIEW OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR LEASE PROCUREMENT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing entitled ''A Review of Veterans Affairs Major Lease Procurement''. Testimony was heard from Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator, St. Johns County, Florida; Stella Fiotes, Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; Norbert Doyle, Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dave Wise, Director of the Physical Infrastructure Team, Government Accountability Office.

IS NSF PROPERLY MANAGING ITS ROTATING STAFF?

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Research and Technology, held a joint hearing entitled ''Is NSF Properly Managing Its Rotating Staff?''. Testimony was heard from Allison Lerner, Inspector General, National Science Foundation; and Richard Buckius, Chief Operating Officer, National Science Foundation.

GSA'S PROPOSED TRANSACTIONAL DATA RULE AND ITS EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce held a hearing entitled ''GSA's Proposed Transactional Data Rule and its Effect on Small Businesses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING; THE STATE OF VA'S FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a business meeting regarding the Committee Photo for the 114th Congress; and a hearing entitled ''The State of VA's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget''. Testimony was heard from Sloan Gibson, Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a markup on H.R. 1994, the ''VA Accountability Act of 2015''; H.R. 2344, the ''Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Improvement Act of 2015''; H.R 2360, the ''Career-Ready Student Veterans Act''; H.R. 356, the ''Wounded Warrior Employment Improvement Act''; H.R. 832, the ''Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2015''; H.R. 2275, the ''Jobs for Veterans Act of 2015''; and H.R. 2361, the ''Work-Study for Student Veterans Act''. The following bills were forwarded to the full committee, as amended: H.R. 1994, H.R. 2344, and H.R. 2360. The following bills were forwarded to the full committee, without amendment: H.R. 356, H.R. 832, H.R. 2275, and H.R. 2361.

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: HOW OUR WELFARE SYSTEM CAN DISCOURAGE WORK

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources; and Subcommittee on Nutrition of the House Committee on Agriculture, held a joint hearing entitled ''Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: How Our Welfare System Can Discourage Work''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled ''Assuring National Security Space: Investing in American Industry to End Reliance on Russian Rocket Engines'', 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will begin consideration of S. 1177, Every Child Achieves Act.

At 5:30 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Kara Farnandez Stoll, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, and vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, July 7

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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