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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

ELK COUNTY FLOODING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in May, the citizens of Ridgway, Elk County, Pennsylvania, experienced a devastating flood. I rise today to express my sincere appreciation to the first responders, the borough employees, and the Ridgway citizens who came to the aid of their neighbors.

On Friday, May 23, following the flood and upon my return from Washington to the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I was in Ridgway for a briefing by borough manager, Colonel Kim Zimmerman. Our mission was to analyze the scope of the damage, coordinate all levels of government, and determine the best and most efficient path forward to bring relief to those in need.

The colonel, his staff, and the fire department did an outstanding job considering that the Clarion River rose from the normal 3 feet level to greater than 21 feet in a few hours. Despite record flooding, there was no loss of life and no injuries. This fact is remarkable given that 100 citizens had to be evacuated by boat and a total of 500, including land evacuation.

I returned to Ridgway the next day to walk the streets to talk with residents and offer my support to the residents and businesses dealing with losses and damages caused by this devastating flooding.

During my 2 days on the scene, I witnessed heroes in action: fire department volunteers who had been on the job almost 48 hours with little or no sleep; borough employees who refused to be sent home after multiple shifts; neighbors who took time from their own cleanups to assist their neighbors; and church organizations that traveled from surrounding counties to help the community begin to put the pieces back together.

Mr. Speaker, the actions that I observed those days in Ridgway is one of the many reasons that I am proud to call this area my home, and I am proud to represent the Pennsylvania Fifth District.

I want to thank Governor Tom Corbett for his immediate presence and the work of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, along with the visit by Lieutenant Governor Cawley.

Now, based on the joint county, municipal, and State recommendations, Governor Corbett made a disaster declaration on May 29 and also requested loan and grant assistance from the Small Business Administration. Fortunately, the disaster designation was granted, and I offer the commitment from my offices and staff to assist businesses and homeowners who have been affected the resources to assist with their claims.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over and over again, House Republicans complain about Federal spending, especially when it comes to our Nation's premier antihunger safety net program, a program known as SNAP. They say the program is too big, that it is bloated and it is full of fraud, waste, and abuse. These claims are patently false and have been dispelled over and over again. But there is something else missing from the House Republicans' attacks on SNAP—a plan to responsibly shrink the program.

Now, of course, House Republicans have many irresponsible plans to reduce SNAP spending. They want to make it harder and more costly for States to administer the program. They want to prevent people who have served their time in prison from being able to receive SNAP benefits. And they want to prevent those struggling with drug addiction from being able to receive SNAP benefits. In other words, they want to deny food to hungry people.

Not one of these ideas is thoughtful or responsible. But, Mr. Speaker, there is a way to reduce SNAP spending in a responsible way that doesn't take food away from hungry people. It is simple, it is noncontroversial, and it makes a lot of sense. Mr. Speaker, the best way

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to do this is to raise the minimum wage. We know that hunger is a subset of poverty. If people earned enough money, they wouldn't need help making ends meet. They wouldn't need Medicaid, SNAP, or housing assistance. The Federal minimum wage is currently $7.25 and hasn't been raised in 5 years. The real value of today's minimum wage is less than two-thirds of what it was in 1968. The result of such a low minimum wage is that many full-time workers live in poverty and have to rely on public assistance programs in order to make ends meet.

Now, I am a cosponsor of the bill to raise the Federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour. Doing so wouldn't just result in increased wages for American workers, although that is the most important result. Raising the minimum wage to $10.10 would cut SNAP spending by $4.6 billion a year—$4.6 billion a year.

That is an amazing figure, Mr. Speaker, and that reduction in spending comes simply because people would earn enough money to buy their own food. Imagine that. By increasing people's wages, we reduce the number of people relying on Federal assistance.

A recent study commissioned by the Center for American Progress documents this. It shows that SNAP benefits decline 30 cents for every $1 increase in family earnings. This report goes on to show that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage reduces SNAP enrollment by between 2.4 percent and 3.2 percent and reduces SNAP spending by 1.9 percent. That means that 3.5 million Americans would be cut from SNAP not because of some arbitrary or hurtful policy but because they earn enough so they don't need SNAP any longer.

Mr. Speaker, this is just good, plain common sense. We should be doing more to bridge the income inequality gap. We should be doing everything we can to make sure that people are earning as much as they can so that they do not need to rely on Federal programs like SNAP or Medicaid.

And, quite frankly, we shouldn't be talking about a minimum wage, Mr. Speaker. We should be talking about a living wage. Just look at my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. The minimum wage is $8 an hour. But a living wage for two childless adults is just under $15 an hour, and it rises to $18.30 for two adults with one child. Now, while I support an increase in minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, that is not going to cut it for a family of three.

That is why I am encouraged by what the city of Seattle has done. They responsibly raised their minimum wage to $15 an hour, an increase phased in over the next 6 years. That is essentially the average national living wage. While I believe our effort to raise the Federal minimum wage to $10.10 is a good one and is the right policy, I believe we need to think bigger and bolder. Seattle passed its increase with the blessing and approval from both labor and business groups. That is an amazing coalition.

Mr. Speaker, raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. And it will actually have real impacts on the lives of poor families living in this country. It will cut SNAP spending by $4.6 billion per year, and 3.5 million people will be able to stop relying on SNAP simply because they are earning more in every paycheck they take home. It will help end hunger now. This is a good, commonsense way to reduce SNAP spending and make people's lives better.

We should increase the minimum wage today. I call on the Republican leadership to schedule a vote. Increasing the minimum wage is the right thing to do. If we want to end hunger now, we need to make sure that people who work ought not to have to live in poverty.

APEX HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of attending the Apex High School graduation ceremony, where 556 seniors received their diplomas.

I was impressed, Mr. Speaker, to hear about their accomplishments while at Apex High. These seniors played on sports teams that were a part of 18 conference championships and five State championships, including men's basketball, men's and women's lacrosse, volleyball, swimming, and track and field.

Their achievements were not limited to sports. The marching bands, chorus and orchestra, and theater have all been recognized for their talents. The Apex High School DECA club, which prepares students with unique opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurship in future careers, has been recognized statewide and nationally, Mr. Speaker. Apex High's Academy of Information Technology was also named as the top academy in the country by the National Academy Foundation.

The graduating class was outstanding academically, as well, earning over $3.9 million in scholarships to some of the best universities in the country.

This time of year, Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of thousands of graduates across the Nation. It is a very special and significant time for many. For these students, this means ending one chapter and beginning a new one. I congratulate all the seniors at Apex High School and across the country on their commendable achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House. Keep them aware of Your presence as they face the tasks of this day, that no burden be too heavy, no duty too difficult, and no work too wearisome.

Help them, and indeed help us all, to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive, eager to work, and ready to serve You, our great Nation, and all our fellow brothers and sisters.

May all that is done this day be done for Your greater honor and glory.

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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

RETURN TO THE CONSTITUTION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, over $1 billion in Federal grants have been wasted on poorly functioning State ObamaCare exchanges, including a reported $655 million for three exchanges that have been completely shut down. These failed Web sites fit into a long line of government information technology projects that are over budget and underperforming.

Repeated attempts to build an electronic system that would allow the Defense Department and the VA to share

medical records have failed, despite billions spent. This is a significant contributing factor to many of the VA's problems.

Mr. Speaker, it is increasingly clear that the government is simply unable to procure IT products at a reasonable cost. With the Internet's growing role in nearly all commerce and communication, this is yet another reason to stop expanding the reach of the bureaucracy and return our government to its constitutionally defined limits.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF LAUREN DABERKOW AND DAWSON PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT IN LEXINGTON, NEBRASKA

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Lauren Daberkow, a retired mechanic at Dawson Public Power District in Lexington, Nebraska. For the third year in a row, Lauren traveled to Caracol, Haiti, as part of a rural electrification project through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Each year, Lauren transports the supplies necessary to service utility trucks, addresses maintenance concerns, and then offers hands-on training so local staff can address such issues in the future.

While only 13 percent of the people in Haiti have regular access to electricity, when this project is linked to other electrification efforts, approximately 20,000 customers over the next 3 years will have access to electricity. Electricity can improve the quality of life through access to vital services like health care, education, and clean water.

For this reason, I thank Mr. Daberkow and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for their efforts to electrify communities around the world.

REMEMBERING COLONEL JOE HART OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a member of the Greatest Generation—Colonel Joe Hart of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, who passed away on May 23 at the age of 93. Colonel Joe was known for many things. He was a decorated World War II hero, a B–17 pilot, a POW, a participant in January 1945's infamous Death March, a Purple Heart recipient, a test pilot for Boeing, a patent holder, and the author of a book, ''The Hart Dietary Procedure.'' He was a father and grandfather, a local radio commentator, and a frequent caller to my office.

Colonel Joe was not shy about his strong opinions, and his many visits to my Rogers office to share them were always welcomed by my staff. We—and the undoubtedly many others Colonel Joe touched throughout his long life—will certainly miss his presence.

My thoughts and prayers are with your family and friends. Rest in peace, Colonel Joe. We will miss you.

HONORING MR. JUDE HARRINGTON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jude Harrington, supervisory park ranger at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Raystown Lake, located in Huntingdon County of the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District.

Mr. Harrington has been recognized as the recipient of the 2014 American Recreation Coalition's Legends Award.

For the past 30 years, Mr. Harrington's efforts have significantly contributed to the improvement of visitor recreational experiences and the enhancement of environmental, social, health, and economic benefits for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Jude's leadership helped to make Raystown Lake a national tourism destination through facility upgrades, coordination of widely publicized special events, and a strong partnership program.

Jude is a founding member of the Friends of Raystown Lake and a longtime adviser, which has led to more than $1.7 million in partnership contributions.

Mr. Speaker, without Mr. Harrington's high standards, customers and the surrounding community would not have such high quality camping facilities, roadways, trails, boat launches, and beaches to enjoy. He is a true professional, leader, and team member.

Congratulations, Jude, for your commitment to excellence as the 2014 Legends Award winner.

ER VISITS INCREASING AS A RESULT OF THE ACA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, imagine you have a medical emergency, you show up at the emergency department of your hospital, and you are treated in the waiting room. That is exactly what is happening in hospitals all over America. Overcrowding has become a reality.

A recent report by the American College of Emergency Medicine showed that more than half of all ER doctors have reported this trend. It is ironic that the main pillar of the Affordable Care Act, which was an increase in patients' access to care, is exactly the opposite of what is happening.

We are having a hearing on Thursday in the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. I am looking forward to it. We will discuss the impact of the President's health care law on access to health care.

It is my sincere hope that the administration is cooperative and forthcoming as we investigate yet another aspect of the Affordable Care Act that instead of helping is hurting patients, doctors, and hospitals and putting a strain on our system.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 5, 2014 at 5:05 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1044.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATHAM. 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 H.R. 4745, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 604 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. 4745.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1409

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. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING 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 Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I am pleased today to present to the House for consideration H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015.

The committee has put forth a bill that conforms to our 302(b) allocation of $52 billion in budget authority and is in line with the budget cap of $1.014 trillion. Under such an allocation, we prioritized programs and spending to achieve three very important goals: to continue the ob lim level funding levels of MAP–21 contingent upon reauthorization; keep the commercial air space running smoothly; and preserve the housing option for all current HUD-assisted families.

I think this is a good bill with the allocation that was given to us. We may hear today from some who say the bill spends too much money, and I am sure we will hear from those who believe we should be spending more money. However, this bill received a fair allocation under the Ryan-Murray budget agreement with a large, bipartisan majority, and, as such, we should continue that support.

Thanks to the return of regular order, the whole House of Representatives has the opportunity for full consideration of this legislation. It is imperative that we move this bill to final passage, reflecting the amendments adopted by the House, and move this bill to conference in time for the new fiscal year.

I would like to thank my good friend and fellow future retiree, the gentleman from Arizona and the T–HUD ranking member, Mr. PASTOR, for his ideas and support in drafting the bill. It has been a real pleasure to work with the gentleman, and I really do appreciate his friendship. I would also like to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY, plus the members of the full committee, and especially the subcommittee, for the hours spent in hearings, markups, and meetings, working together to bring this bill to the floor and eventually have it signed into law.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle. They have worked tirelessly to get this bill done to this point, and I urge the adoption of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION					
Office of the Secretary					
Salaries and expenses	107,000	109,916	103,000	-4,000	-6,916
Immediate Office of the Secretary	(2,652)	(2,696)	(2,600)	(-52)	(-96)
Immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary	(1,000)	(1,011)	(980)	(-20)	(-31)
Office of the General Counsel	(19,900)	(20,312)	(19,000)	(-900)	(-1,312)
Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy	(10,271)	(10,417)	(9,500)	(-771)	(-917)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs	(12,676)	(13,111)	(12,500)	(-176)	(-611)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs	(2,530)	(2,567)	(2,500)	(-30)	(-67)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	(26,378)	(27,420)	(24,720)	(-1,658)	(-2,700)
Office of Public Affairs	(2,020)	(2,061)	(2,000)	(-20)	(-61)
Office of the Executive Secretariat	(1,714)	(1,746)	(1,700)	(-14)	(-46)
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization	(1,386)	(1,414)	(1,400)	(+14)	(-14)
Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response	(10,778)	(11,055)	(10,600)	(-178)	(-455)
Office of the Chief Information Officer	(15,695)	(16,106)	(15,500)	(-195)	(-606)
Research and Technology	14,765	14,625	12,625	-2,140	-2,000
National Infrastructure Investments	600,000	1,250,000	100,000	-500,000	-1,150,000
Infrastructure Permitting Center	---	8,000	---	---	-8,000
Financial Management Capital	7,000	5,000	5,000	-2,000	---
Cyber Security Initiatives	4,455	5,000	5,000	+545	---
Office of Civil Rights	9,551	9,600	9,600	+49	---
Transportation Planning, Research, and Development	7,000	8,000	6,000	-1,000	-2,000
Rescission of unobligated balances	-2,750	---	---	+2,750	---
Subtotal	4,250	8,000	6,000	+1,750	-2,000
Working Capital Fund	(178,000)	---	(181,000)	(+3,000)	(+181,000)
Minority Business Resource Center Program	925	1,013	1,013	+88	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(18,367)	(18,367)	(18,367)	---	---
Minority Business Outreach	3,088	3,099	3,099	+11	---
Safe Transport of Oil	---	40,000	---	---	-40,000
Payments to Air Carriers (Airport & Airway Trust Fund)	149,000	155,000	149,000	---	-6,000
Total, Office of the Secretary	900,034	1,609,253	394,337	-505,697	-1,214,916
Federal Aviation Administration					
Operations	9,651,422	9,750,000	9,750,000	+98,578	---
Air traffic organization	(7,311,790)	(7,396,654)	(7,396,654)	(+84,864)	---
Aviation safety	(1,204,777)	(1,215,458)	(1,218,458)	(+13,681)	(+3,000)
Commercial space transportation	(16,011)	(16,605)	(16,000)	(-11)	(-605)
Finance and management	(762,462)	(765,047)	(762,652)	(+190)	(-2,395)
Staff offices	(296,600)	(296,147)	(296,147)	(-453)	---
NextGen	(59,782)	(60,089)	(60,089)	(+307)	---
Facilities and Equipment (Airport & Airway Trust Fund)	2,600,000	2,603,700	2,600,000	---	-3,700
Research, Engineering, and Development (Airport & Airway Trust Fund	158,792	156,750	156,750	-2,042	---
Rescission of unobligated balances	-26,184	---	---	+26,184	---

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grants-in-Aid for Airports (Airport and Airway Trust Fund)(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(3,200,000)	(3,200,000)	(3,200,000)	---	---
(Limitation on obligations)	(3,350,000)	(2,900,000)	(3,350,000)	---	(+450,000)
Administration	(106,600)	(107,100)	(107,100)	(+500)	---
Airport cooperative research program	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
Airport technology research	(29,500)	(29,750)	(29,750)	(+250)	---
Small community air service development program	(5,000)	---	(3,000)	(-2,000)	(+3,000)
Rescission of contract authority	---	-256,000	-260,000	-260,000	-4,000
Pop-up contract authority	---	126,000	130,000	+130,000	+4,000
Total, Federal Aviation Administration	12,384,030	12,380,450	12,376,750	-7,280	-3,700
Limitations on obligations	(3,350,000)	(2,900,000)	(3,350,000)	---	(+450,000)
Total budgetary resources	(15,734,030)	(15,280,450)	(15,726,750)	(-7,280)	(+446,300)
Administrative Provision					
War Risk Insurance Program Extension	-100,000	---	---	+100,000	---
Federal Highway Administration					
Limitation on Administrative Expenses	(416,100)	(439,000)	(426,100)	(+10,000)	(-12,900)
Federal-Aid Highways (Highway Trust Fund):					
(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(40,995,000)	(48,062,248)	(40,995,000)	---	(-7,067,248)
(Limitation on obligations)	(40,256,000)	(47,323,248)	(40,256,000)	---	(-7,067,248)
Fixing and Accelerating Surface Transportation					
(Liquidation of contract authorization)	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(Exempt contract authority)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---	---
Total, Federal Highway Administration	---	---	---	---	---
Limitations on obligations	(40,256,000)	(47,823,248)	(40,256,000)	---	(-7,567,248)
Exempt contract authority	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---	---
Total budgetary resources	(40,995,000)	(48,562,248)	(40,995,000)	---	(-7,567,248)
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration					
Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs (Highway Trust Fund)(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(259,000)	(315,770)	(259,000)	---	(-56,770)
(Limitation on obligations)	(259,000)	(315,770)	(259,000)	---	(-56,770)
National Motor Carrier Safety Program (Highway Trust Fund) (Liquidation of contract authorization)	(13,000)	---	---	(-13,000)	---
(Limitation on obligations)	(13,000)	---	---	(-13,000)	---
Motor Carrier Safety Grants (Highway Trust Fund) (Liquidation of contract authorization)	(313,000)	(352,753)	(313,000)	---	(-39,753)
(Limitation on obligations)	(313,000)	(352,753)	(313,000)	---	(-39,753)
Total, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	---	---	---	---	---
Limitations on obligations	(585,000)	(668,523)	(572,000)	(-13,000)	(-96,523)
Total budgetary resources	(585,000)	(668,523)	(572,000)	(-13,000)	(-96,523)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration					
Operations and Research (general fund)	134,000	152,000	134,000	---	-18,000
Operations and Research (Highway Trust Fund) (Liquidation of contract authorization)	(123,500)	(122,000)	(128,500)	(+5,000)	(+6,500)
(Limitation on obligations)	(123,500)	(122,000)	(128,500)	(+5,000)	(+6,500)
Subtotal, Operations and Research	257,500	274,000	262,500	+5,000	-11,500

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Highway Traffic Safety Grants (Highway Trust Fund)					
(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(561,500)	(577,000)	(561,500)	---	(-15,500)
(Limitation on obligations)	(561,500)	(577,000)	(561,500)	---	(-15,500)
Highway safety programs (23 USC 402)	(235,000)	(241,146)	(235,000)	---	(-6,146)
National priority safety programs (23 USC 405)	(272,000)	(278,705)	(272,000)	---	(-6,705)
High visibility enforcement	(29,000)	(29,000)	(29,000)	---	---
Administrative expenses	(25,500)	(28,149)	(25,500)	---	(-2,649)
Total, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	134,000	152,000	134,000	---	-18,000
Limitations on obligations	(685,000)	(699,000)	(690,000)	(+5,000)	(-9,000)
Total budgetary resources	(819,000)	(851,000)	(824,000)	(+5,000)	(-27,000)
Federal Railroad Administration					
Safety and Operations	184,500	185,250	185,250	+750	---
Railroad Research and Development	35,250	35,100	35,250	---	+150
Rail Service Improvement Program	---	2,325,000	---	---	-2,325,000
Northeast Corridor Improvement Program (rescission)	-4,419	---	---	+4,419	---
Next Generation High-Speed Rail (rescission)	-1,973	---	---	+1,973	---
National Railroad Passenger Corporation:					
Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation	340,000	---	340,000	---	+340,000
Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation	1,050,000	---	850,000	-200,000	+850,000
Current Rail Passenger Service	---	2,450,000	---	---	-2,450,000
Subtotal	1,390,000	2,450,000	1,190,000	-200,000	-1,260,000
Total, Federal Railroad Administration	1,603,358	4,995,350	1,410,500	-192,858	-3,584,850
Federal Transit Administration					
Administrative Expenses	105,933	114,400	103,000	-2,933	-11,400
Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program	---	25,000	---	---	-25,000
Transit Formula Grants (Hwy Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account (Liquidation of contract authorization)	(9,500,000)	(13,800,000)	(9,500,000)	---	(-4,300,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	(8,595,000)	(13,800,000)	(8,595,000)	---	(-5,205,000)
Fixing and Acceleration Surface Transportation (Liquidation of contract authorization)	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
Transit Research	43,000	---	15,000	-28,000	+15,000
Technical Assistance and Training	5,000	---	3,000	-2,000	+3,000
Transit Research and Training	---	60,000	---	---	-60,000
Rapid-Growth Area Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Program (liquidation of contract authorization)	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(limitation on obligations)	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
Capital Investment Grants	1,942,938	2,500,000	1,691,000	-251,938	-809,000
Rescission	---	---	-65,000	-65,000	-65,000
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Capital and Preventive Maintenance	150,000	150,000	150,000	---	---
Administrative Provisions					
Rescission (Sec. 168)	-96,228	---	---	+96,228	---
Total, Federal Transit Administration	2,150,643	2,849,400	1,897,000	-253,643	-952,400
Limitations on obligations	(8,595,000)	(14,800,000)	(8,595,000)	---	(-6,205,000)
Total budgetary resources	(10,745,643)	(17,649,400)	(10,492,000)	(-253,643)	(-7,157,400)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation					
Operations and Maintenance (Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund)	31,000	31,500	32,500	+1,500	+1,000
Maritime Administration					
Maritime Security Program	186,000	211,000	166,000	-20,000	-45,000
Operations and Training	148,003	148,400	132,000	-16,003	-16,400
Ready Reserve Force (by transfer)	---	(291,000)	---	---	(-291,000)
Ship Disposal	4,800	4,800	4,000	-800	-800
Maritime Guaranteed Loan (Title XI) Program Account:					
Administrative expenses	3,500	3,100	3,100	-400	---
Guaranteed loans subsidy	35,000	---	---	-35,000	---
Rescission	---	---	-29,000	-29,000	-29,000
Subtotal	38,500	3,100	-25,900	-64,400	-29,000
Total, Maritime Administration	377,303	367,300	276,100	-101,203	-91,200
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration					
Operational Expenses:					
General Fund	21,015	22,225	21,654	+639	-571
Pipeline Safety Fund	639	---	---	-639	---
Pipeline Safety information grants	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	---	---
Subtotal	21,654	22,225	21,654	---	-571
Hazardous Materials Safety:					
General Fund	45,000	52,000	52,000	+7,000	---
Special Permit and Approval Fees	---	-6,000	---	---	+6,000
Pipeline Safety:					
Pipeline Safety Fund	98,514	136,500	110,000	+11,486	-26,500
Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund	18,573	19,500	19,500	+927	---
Pipeline Safety Design Review Fund	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
Subtotal	119,087	158,000	131,500	+12,413	-26,500
Subtotal, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	185,741	226,225	205,154	+19,413	-21,071
Pipeline safety user fees	-99,153	-136,500	-110,000	-10,847	+26,500
Pipeline Safety Design Review fee	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	---	---
Emergency Preparedness Grants:					
Limitation on emergency preparedness fund	(28,318)	(28,318)	(28,318)	---	---
(Emergency preparedness fund)	(188)	(188)	(188)	---	---
Total, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	84,588	87,725	93,154	+8,566	+5,429
Office of Inspector General					
Salaries and Expenses	85,605	86,223	86,223	+618	---

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Surface Transportation Board					
Salaries and Expenses	31,000	31,500	31,250	+250	-250
Offsetting collections	-1,250	-1,250	-1,250	---	---
Total, Surface Transportation Board	29,750	30,250	30,000	+250	-250
Total, title I, Department of Transportation	17,680,311	22,589,451	16,730,564	-949,747	-5,858,887
Appropriations	(17,813,115)	(22,852,701)	(17,085,814)	(-727,301)	(-5,766,887)
Rescissions	(-131,554)	---	(-94,000)	(+37,554)	(-94,000)
Rescissions of contract authority	---	(-256,000)	(-260,000)	(-260,000)	(-4,000)
Offsetting collections	(-1,250)	(-7,250)	(-1,250)	---	(+6,000)
Limitations on obligations	(53,471,000)	(66,890,771)	(53,463,000)	(-8,000)	(-13,427,771)
(By transfer)	---	(291,000)	---	---	(-291,000)
Total budgetary resources	(71,151,311)	(89,480,222)	(70,193,564)	(-957,747)	(-19,286,658)
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT					
Management and Administration					
Executive Offices	14,500	15,234	14,000	-500	-1,234
Administration Support Offices	506,000	530,783	500,000	-6,000	-30,783
Program Office Salaries and Expenses:					
Public and Indian Housing	205,000	213,664	200,000	-5,000	-13,664
Community Planning and Development	102,000	110,535	100,000	-2,000	-10,535
Housing	381,500	386,677	370,000	-11,500	-16,677
Policy Development and Research	22,000	23,248	20,000	-2,000	-3,248
Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity	69,000	77,629	68,000	-1,000	-9,629
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes	7,000	7,879	7,000	---	-879
Subtotal	786,500	819,632	765,000	-21,500	-54,632
Total, Management and Administration	1,307,000	1,365,649	1,279,000	-28,000	-86,649
Public and Indian Housing					
Tenant-based Rental Assistance:					
Renewals	17,365,527	18,006,550	17,693,079	+327,552	-313,471
Tenant protection vouchers	130,000	150,000	130,000	---	-20,000
Administrative fees	1,500,000	1,705,000	1,350,000	-150,000	-355,000
Veterans affairs supportive housing	75,000	75,000	75,000	---	---
Sec. 811 mainstream voucher renewals	106,691	108,450	108,450	+1,759	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-15,000)	---	---	(+15,000)
Subtotal (available this fiscal year)	19,177,218	20,045,000	19,356,529	+179,311	-688,471
Advance appropriations	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	---	---
Less appropriations from prior year advances	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	---	---
Total, Tenant-based Rental Assistance appropriated in this bill	19,177,218	20,045,000	19,356,529	+179,311	-688,471
Rental Assistance Demonstration	---	10,000	---	---	-10,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-50)	---	---	(+50)
Public Housing Capital Fund	1,875,000	1,925,000	1,775,000	-100,000	-150,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-9,625)	---	---	(+9,625)
Public Housing Operating Fund	4,400,000	4,600,000	4,400,000	---	-200,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-10,070)	---	---	(+10,070)
Choice neighborhoods	90,000	120,000	25,000	-65,000	-95,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-600)	---	---	(+600)
Family Self-Sufficiency	75,000	75,000	75,000	---	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-375)	---	---	(+375)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Native American Housing Block Grants	650,000	650,000	650,000	---	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-3,250)	---	---	(+3,250)
Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant	10,000	13,000	---	-10,000	-13,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-65)	---	---	(+65)
Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund Program Account	6,000	8,000	8,000	+2,000	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(1,818,000)	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)	(-618,000)	---
Native Hawaiian Loan Guarantee Fund Program Account	100	---	---	-100	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(18,868)	---	---	(-18,868)	---
Total, Public and Indian Housing	26,283,318	27,446,000	26,289,529	+6,211	-1,156,471
Community Planning and Development					
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	330,000	332,000	305,900	-24,100	-26,100
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-1,660)	---	---	(+1,660)
Community Development Fund:					
CDBG formula	3,030,000	2,800,000	3,000,000	-30,000	+200,000
Indian CDBG	70,000	70,000	60,000	-10,000	-10,000
Subtotal	3,100,000	2,870,000	3,060,000	-40,000	+190,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-14,350)	---	---	(+14,350)
Community Development Loan Guarantees (Section 108):					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(150,000)	(500,000)	(500,000)	(+350,000)	---
Credit subsidy	3,000	---	---	-3,000	---
Rescission	---	---	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	1,000,000	950,000	700,000	-300,000	-250,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-4,750)	---	---	(+4,750)
Self-help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Capacity Building	---	20,000	40,000	+40,000	+20,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-100)	---	---	(+100)
Homeless Assistance Grants	2,105,000	2,406,400	2,105,000	---	-301,400
Brownfields (rescission)	---	---	-2,900	-2,900	-2,900
Total, Community Planning and Development	6,588,000	6,578,400	6,205,000	-383,000	-373,400
Housing Programs					
Project-based Rental Assistance:					
Renewals	9,651,628	9,536,000	9,536,000	-115,628	---
Contract administrators	265,000	210,000	210,000	-55,000	---
Subtotal (available this fiscal year)	9,916,628	9,746,000	9,746,000	-170,628	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-15,000)	---	---	(+15,000)
Advance appropriations	400,000	400,000	400,000	---	---
Less appropriations from prior year advances	-400,000	-400,000	-400,000	---	---
Total, Project-based Rental Assistance appropriated in this bill	9,916,628	9,746,000	9,746,000	-170,628	---
Housing for the Elderly	383,500	440,000	420,000	+36,500	-20,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-2,200)	---	---	(+2,200)
Housing for Persons with Disabilities	126,000	160,000	135,000	+9,000	-25,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-800)	---	---	(+800)
Housing Counseling Assistance	45,000	60,000	47,000	+2,000	-13,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-300)	---	---	(+300)
Rental Housing Assistance	21,000	28,000	28,000	+7,000	---
Rent Supplement (rescission)	-3,500	---	---	+3,500	---
Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund	7,530	10,000	10,000	+2,470	---
Offsetting collections	-6,530	-10,000	-10,000	-3,470	---
Total, Housing Programs	10,489,628	10,434,000	10,376,000	-113,628	-58,000

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Federal Housing Administration					
Mutual Mortgage Insurance Program Account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(400,000,000)	(400,000,000)	(400,000,000)	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts	-10,841,000	-7,951,000	-7,951,000	+2,890,000	---
Proposed offsetting receipts (HECM)	-57,000	-36,000	-36,000	+21,000	---
Additional offsetting receipts (Sec. 244)	---	-32,000	---	---	+32,000
Administrative contract expenses	127,000	170,000	130,000	+3,000	-40,000
Homeowners Armed with Knowledge Pilot	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000	---
HAWK prohibition (Sec. 232)	---	---	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-850)	---	---	(+850)
General and Special Risk Program Account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts	-926,000	-876,000	-876,000	+50,000	---
Total, Federal Housing Administration	-11,697,000	-8,715,000	-8,733,000	+2,964,000	-18,000
Government National Mortgage Association					
Guarantees of Mortgage-backed Securities Loan Guarantee Program Account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(500,000,000)	(500,000,000)	(500,000,000)	---	---
Administrative expenses	19,500	28,000	22,000	+2,500	-6,000
Offsetting receipts	-100,000	-94,000	-94,000	+6,000	---
Offsetting receipts	-707,000	-742,000	-742,000	-35,000	---
Proposed offsetting receipts (HECM) (Sec. 210)	-12,000	-28,000	-28,000	-16,000	---
Additional contract expenses	1,000	1,000	---	-1,000	-1,000
Total, Gov't National Mortgage Association	-798,500	-835,000	-842,000	-43,500	-7,000
Policy Development and Research					
Research and Technology	46,000	50,000	40,000	-6,000	-10,000
Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity					
Fair Housing Activities	66,000	71,000	46,000	-20,000	-25,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-355)	---	---	(+355)
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes					
Lead Hazard Reduction	110,000	120,000	70,000	-40,000	-50,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out)	---	(-600)	---	---	(+600)
Information Technology Fund	250,000	272,000	97,000	-153,000	-175,000
Office of Inspector General	125,000	129,000	124,861	-139	-4,139
Transformation Initiative	40,000	---	---	-40,000	---
(by transfer)	---	(80,000)	---	---	(-80,000)
Total, title II, Department of Housing and Urban Development	32,809,446	36,916,049	34,952,390	+2,142,944	-1,963,659
Appropriations	(41,062,476)	(42,285,049)	(40,295,290)	(-767,186)	(-1,989,759)
Rescissions	(-3,500)	---	(-5,900)	(-2,400)	(-5,900)
Advance appropriations	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts	(-12,643,000)	(-9,759,000)	(-9,727,000)	(+2,916,000)	(+32,000)
Offsetting collections	(-6,530)	(-10,000)	(-10,000)	(-3,470)	---
(by transfer)	---	80,000	---	---	-80,000
(transfer out)	---	-80,000	---	---	+80,000
(Limitation on direct loans)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	---	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(931,986,868)	(931,700,000)	(931,700,000)	(-286,868)	---

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III - OTHER INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Access Board	7,448	7,548	7,548	+100	---
Federal Housing Finance Agency, Office of Inspector General (legislative proposal)	---	48,000	45,000	+45,000	-3,000
Offsetting collections (legislative proposal)	---	-48,000	-45,000	-45,000	+3,000
Federal Maritime Commission	24,669	25,660	25,499	+830	-161
National Railroad Passenger Corporation Inspector General	23,499	24,499	24,499	+1,000	---
National Transportation Safety Board	103,027	103,000	103,000	-27	---
Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation	204,100	182,000	182,000	-22,100	---
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness	3,500	3,530	3,500	---	-30
Total, title III, Other Independent Agencies	366,243	346,237	346,046	-20,197	-191
Grand total	50,856,000	59,851,737	52,029,000	+1,173,000	-7,822,737
Appropriations	(59,241,834)	(65,531,987)	(57,772,150)	(-1,469,684)	(-7,759,837)
Rescissions	(-135,054)	---	(-99,900)	(+35,154)	(-99,900)
Rescissions of contract authority	---	(-256,000)	(-260,000)	(-260,000)	(-4,000)
Advance appropriations	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts	(-12,643,000)	(-9,759,000)	(-9,727,000)	(+2,916,000)	(+32,000)
Offsetting collections	(-7,780)	(-65,250)	(-56,250)	(-48,470)	(+9,000)
(by transfer)	---	371,000	---	---	-371,000
(transfer out)	---	-80,000	---	---	+80,000
(Limitation on obligations)	(53,471,000)	(66,890,771)	(53,463,000)	(-8,000)	(-13,427,771)
Total budgetary resources	(104,327,000)	(126,742,508)	(105,492,000)	(+1,165,000)	(-21,250,508)

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PASTOR of Arizona asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that we are beginning consideration of H.R. 4745, the fiscal year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I also want to thank Chairman LATHAM for his work on this bill. He has been a good friend throughout the years and has been a great chairman over these last few years on this subcommittee. I really have enjoyed his friendship. I enjoy working with him, and I thank him for all the courtesies he has extended to me.

I also want to thank the staff—the staff on the majority and the staff on the minority side. They have worked well together over these last few months to bring this bill on the floor.

On paper, this bill appears to be nearly $1.2 billion higher than the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. However, the sharp differences between OMB and CBO on the receipt estimates for the FHA loan program mean that this bill is actually $1.8 billion lower—lower than the FY 2014 bill.

As a result, many programs are frozen at last year's level. Deep cuts were made to Amtrak, cuts were made to grants for new transit systems, HUD's HOME program, and HUD's program to reduce the hazards of lead and other household toxins have been reduced.

On a positive note, the bill addresses many of the important safety functions of the Department of Transportation.

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For example, this bill provides strong funding for the programs and activities of the Federal Aviation Administration. It will allow the FAA to continue to hire and train new controllers that were lost due to sequestration.

The bill also ensures that the FAA will be able to continue to make important investments to modernize our aging air traffic control system.

With regard to housing programs, the Community Development Block Grants program is adequately funded, and the chairman has worked to ensure that tenants in assisted housing can retain their housing.

The administration's Statement of Administration Policy makes it clear that this bill needs improvement before President Obama will sign it into law.

As we consider the bill over the next few days, I hope that we can prevent further cuts to important transportation and housing programs, and I also hope that we can defeat legislative provisions that will only weaken this bill's chances for enactment.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out to my colleagues that the Senate allocation for this bill is nearly $2.4 billion higher than this bill. I hope that we are able to consider this bill quickly, so we can go to conference with the Senate to produce a bill that we can all support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise, obviously, in great support of this bill. This is the fourth of the 12 appropriations bills that I hope to bring to the floor before August. It continues to move the ball down the field toward our goal of completing all of our appropriations work on time within the framework of the Ryan-Murray budget deal.

The bill contains a fiscally responsible level of discretionary funding—$52 billion for the important Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, agencies that support critical transportation infrastructure, safety, and housing assistance programs.

With this bill in particular, we had to make some smart but difficult decisions, as Mr. PASTOR and Chairman LATHAM have said. Although the 302(b) allocation is $1.2 billion more than last year, when technical adjustments are taken into account, it is more than $1 billion below the current level. As Chairman LATHAM and Mr. PASTOR have described, this is due to a considerable drop in Federal Housing Administration receipts that are used as offsets within this legislation.

As a result, this bill, by necessity, strikes a fine balance between fiscal restraint and targeted investment in programs that will boost our economy, improve our quality of life, and provide housing options to those Americans most in need.

One of our chief priorities in this bill is providing key infrastructure programs with the funding needed to keep our economy moving. The bill provides $40.26 billion from the highway trust fund for the Federal highway program for road investments, the same as the current level and contingent on the enactment of new transportation authorization legislation. It also includes funding to help communities build, maintain, and keep safe their mass transit systems.

Smooth, efficient, and safe air travel is another priority in this bill. We ensured that we provided full funding for air traffic control personnel, including controllers and safety inspectors. We are investing in the future of air travel as well, helping to ease future congestion and reduce delays by fully funding NextGen.

To protect every American who uses or lives near our roads, airways, pipelines, and waterways, we increased funding for important transportation safety programs.

Within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, we ensured that all those who are currently served by critical housing programs continue to keep a roof over their heads. To do so, the bill increases funding for public and Indian housing by $6.2 million. We also fully fund the President's request for veterans' housing vouchers.

Lastly, Community Development Block Grants have been held consistent with last year's funding level.

As I said before, to balance out the important increases in the bill and to factor in the reductions in FHA receipts, cuts to lower-priority programs were necessary. For instance, the bill reduces Amtrak by $193 million below last year and places strict policy reforms on how tax dollars are spent on this service.

We also reduced TIGER grants by $500 million below last year's level and mandated that these funds address our most critical transportation needs—road, highway, and bridge construction and improvement. None of these funds under this bill will go toward nonessential purposes, like streetscaping.

Overall, Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. It will address our most immediate infrastructure needs and provides our most vulnerable citizens with housing.

Before I close my remarks, Mr. Chairman, I want to say a few words about the coauthors of this bill—Chairman LATHAM and the ranking member, Mr. PASTOR. As you know, this will be their last T-HUD bill before they leave us at the end of the year for greener pastures.

These two men have been great assets to our committee, for their expertise, their willingness to work together, and their great attitudes; and we are going to miss them greatly. Their swan song, this bill, is a fine achievement, a capstone on two accomplished careers.

I want to thank them both for their hard work on this bill and others through the years and for their contributions to the Appropriations Committee and the House and the Nation.

My friend Mr. LATHAM and I have labored together on this committee for a good while—18 years, TOM says—and we have been friends all along. We served together on the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee for many, many years, among others, and I have learned to respect Chairman LATHAM.

He is a great personal friend whom I treasure greatly. Mr. PASTOR, the same way—we have worked together on this committee for a number of years as well. We have tried to serve the Nation and the Congress as best we could, and these two gentlemen have done great work on behalf of the American people.

This is a tough bill. It is a good bill, but it is a tough bill. They had to squeeze some oversized feet into some undersized shoes, given the allocation that they had to work with, but they came through with flying colors.

So I enthusiastically urge my colleagues in the House to vote for this bill because it is the best we can do,

and it is a great bill, but also, I want to say in closing, as a tribute to these two fine public servants.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for his kind words. We have worked together for many years, and over those years, we have been able to do appropriations bills and also developed a great friendship. Thank you, Chairman ROGERS.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member PASTOR for their outstanding service to the Congress and to the country. They exemplify the spirit and history of bipartisan cooperation of the Appropriations Committee, and they will certainly be missed. I wish them both the best in the next chapter of their lives.

I appreciate their efforts to put this bill together. Their job was made all the more difficult by much lower than expected FHA and Ginnie Mae receipts.

Unfortunately, I must oppose this bill because it provides inadequate funding for our country's highway and transit infrastructure.

Specifically, cuts to the following critical infrastructure programs are unacceptable: Amtrak's capital funding is decreased by $200 million below fiscal year 2014, which will defer critical repairs; capital investment grants, which support new subway, light rail, and commuter projects are $809 million below the request, and the bill contains no funding for transit projects that are in the pipeline; TIGER would receive a paltry $100 million—while I am pleased the majority included it in its bill for the first time, the proposed level is insufficient; and on the housing side, both HOME and the Public Housing Capital Fund, which are vital for the rehabilitation and modernization of our country's affordable housing stock, face sharp decreases.

At $700 million, HOME is funded at its lowest level since the program began in 1992, and the Public Housing Capital Fund is funded below the sequester level.

In addition, funding wasn't included to support the installation of positive train control, which could prevent deadly rail accidents like those experienced in New York and Connecticut in recent years. However, I do appreciate that the chairman is committed to addressing this issue if additional resources become available.

While I would have liked this bill to fully support the President's new safe transportation of energy products fund for prevention and response activities across all agencies at DOT that are grappling with the dangers of crude oil transport by rail, I thank the chairman for working with me to include approximately $11 million for the Federal Railroad Administration to support grade crossing safety improvements on rail routes that transport energy products and the hiring of safety staff to monitor the routing of energy products.

There is also $7 million for Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to improve training and outreach efforts related to incident response, along with report language that directs the Department of Transportation to update emergency spill response plans for rail crude oil spills, improve first responder training protocols for spill incidents, and finalize a rule for improving safety standards for crude oil tank cars, like the DOT–111, by the end of September.

I would be remiss if I didn't note my objection to the inclusion of riders on California high-speed rail and on truck weight exemptions. These controversial riders will only hinder the bill's progress through the Congress.

I would note for my colleagues that the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its transportation and housing bill last week. The Senate bill's allocation was nearly $2.4 billion higher than this bill. As a result, it addresses many of the shortfalls of the bill we consider today.

It is my sincere hope that we can improve this bill in a conference with the Senate before it is signed into law.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, does the gentleman from Arizona have any more speakers?

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate 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, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment who has caused it to be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4745

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 Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, $103,000,000, of which not to exceed $2,600,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed $980,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed $19,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed $9,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; not to exceed $12,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; not to exceed $2,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs; not to exceed $24,720,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; not to exceed $2,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs; not to exceed $1,700,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat; not to exceed $1,400,000 shall be available for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; not to exceed $10,600,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response; and not to exceed $15,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 5 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $60,000 shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, excluding fees authorized in Public Law 107–71, there may be credited to this appropriation up to $2,500,000 in funds received in user fees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for the position of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

□ 1430

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MEEHAN

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 41, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chair, my amendment seeks to transfer $3 million from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation salaries and expense account to the Federal Railroad Administration to fund the use of a second car to support the inspection of crude oil routes covering more than 14,000 miles of track nationwide. This funding would also be available to expedite implementation of a remote automated track inspection capability to increase inspection mileage while reducing costs.

For more than 30 years, the Federal Railroad Administration's Automated Track Inspection Program has provided accurate track geometry data, as well as other track-related performance data, to assess compliance with the Federal track safety standards. Currently, FRA is operating only one ATIP car for inspections. My amendment would enable the FRA to add an

additional car to support safety inspections.

Mr. Chairman, I realize you're in the unenviable position of allocating the difficult funding level given to you. I would like to be clear that I think you and your cohorts have done a tremendous job in crafting a bill which truly does more with less. My amendment seeks to match what is included in the Senate FY15 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill for the Automated Track Inspection Program.

According to data from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, more than 1.15 million gallons of crude oil were spilled from railcars in 2013. Last year's total spills of 1.15 million gallons means that 99.99 percent of shipments arrived without incident. But recent derailments in my home State of Pennsylvania, including one in Westmoreland County and one in my district of Philadelphia, have made us all keenly aware of the dangers that train derailments can pose to a community. Just yesterday, a train carrying crude oil derailed on a bridge outside Pittsburgh. At this moment, it is dangling off the track and over the water.

Derailments are fairly uncommon. The sober truth is that people's lives are at risk, and we must do everything in our power to ensure we continue to transport this crude in the safest manner possible. Track data collected by ATIP is used by FRA, railroad inspectors, and Federal railroads to assist in assured track safety.

Oil has been moving by rail through populous areas for decades, and industry is responding by improving safety measures. It is time the Federal Government do its part and increase our investment in the safety inspections of our rail lines.

Mr. Chairman, this program produces results. It is not just people on one side of the aisle that recognize this, but Congress as a whole does. Why not take a modest increase in the funding of the FRA to double their capability in performing safety evaluations?

This amendment would make our rail lines safer while reducing costs. I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is very well intended, but I make a point of order.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The amendment may not be considered en bloc under clause 2(f) of rule XXI because the amendment proposes to increase the level of outlays in the bill.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair will rule.

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must not propose to increase the levels of budget authority or outlays in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania proposes a net increase in the level of outlays in the bill, as argued by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $6,000,000)''.

Page 15, line 2, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $6,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to direct $6 million to the FAA for additional radar technology and equipment to the Standard Terminal Arrival Route, called STARs, in area navigation. This additional radar technology would be placed on U.S. Navy property where flight training operations are conducted. It is designed to mitigate the cumulative effects of electromagnetic radar interference from constructed or proposed wind turbines.

What we have got is a problem that is developing throughout the country where wind farms are interfering with the ability of our radar to track planes. This is a safety consideration. It is important to making sure that we have adequately trained pilots in the Navy.

As we move towards more clean energy like wind energy, it is important that we look at some of the unintended consequences of these. This radar interference with FAA radar and radar used by the Navy in training purposes, and in some instances other branches of the service, is a real safety hazard.

This money will be used to develop the technology so these radars can either be networked or additional weather band parts of the radar can be adapted to mitigate the interference of these wind turbines. There is a real chance that these wind farms, as more and more of them come online, would severely impact radar operations throughout the country.

It is crucial that we invest in mitigation technologies and strategies to make renewable energy products even more compatible with our Naval training and FAA operations, and the time to act is now. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. The purpose of the amendment is to provide funding for Navy operations that might be affected by new and existing wind turbines. Upgrades to air traffic control to address Navy requirements resulting from the construction of wind farms are the responsibility of the Department of Defense and potentially those who are constructing the new wind farms. FAA would have a role in consulting with DOD to upgrades of air traffic control facilities, but this is typically done as a reimbursable agreement between DOD and the FAA.

Further, we cannot accept this offset. We have already reduced DOT salaries and expenses for the Office of the Secretary down to the level provided in fiscal year 2012. We have provided funds in this account to protect transportation consumers, ensure safety across DOT programs, and provide oversight of DOT programs to safeguard the taxpayer.

I would be happy to work with the gentleman to ensure the FAA has an appropriate partner to help in addressing this issue, but I must oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I urge a ''no'' vote and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

I agree with the chairman that DOD, Department of Defense, has the primary responsibility, and FAA would be a partner in that venture. We also agree that the reduction of salaries and expenses below the FY 2014 level—we don't know what consequences it would have, possibly RIFs or layoffs, and so for that reason, I ask opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, $12,625,000, of which $8,218,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training: *Provided further*, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration shall continue to be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

For capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, $100,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to be awarded to a State, local government, or a collaboration among such entities on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region: *Provided further*,

That funds under this heading shall be available only for highway and bridge activities described under paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code, and section 202(a) of such title; freight rail transportation projects; and port infrastructure investments: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use up to 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading for the purpose of paying the subsidy and administrative costs of projects eligible for Federal credit assistance under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, if the Secretary finds that such use of the funds would advance the purposes of this paragraph: *Provided further*, That in distributing funds provided under this heading, the Secretary shall take such measures so as to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas: *Provided further*, That a grant funded under this heading shall be not less than $2,000,000 and not greater than $15,000,000: *Provided further*, That not more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this heading may be awarded to projects in a single State: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made under this heading shall be, at the option of the recipient, up to 50 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall give priority to projects that require a contribution of Federal funds in order to complete an overall financing package: *Provided further*, That not less than 20 percent of the funds provided under this heading shall be for projects located in rural areas: *Provided further*, That for projects located in rural areas, the minimum grant size shall be $1,000,000 and the Secretary may increase the Federal share of costs to 80 percent: *Provided further*, That projects conducted using funds provided under this heading must comply with the requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation's financial systems and re-engineering business processes, $5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016.

CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to wide area network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of network perimeter controls and identity management, testing and assessment of information technology against business, security, and other requirements, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives and information infrastructure enhancements, implementation of enhanced security controls on network devices, and enhancement of cyber security workforce training tools, $5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, $9,600,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, to remain available until expended, $6,000,000.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed $181,000,000 shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the above limitation on operating expenses shall not apply to non-DOT entities: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated in this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM

For the cost of guaranteed loans, $417,000, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 332: *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, not to exceed $18,367,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, $596,000.

MINORITY BUSINESS OUTREACH

For necessary expenses of Minority Business Resource Center outreach activities, $3,099,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 332, these funds may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731 through 41742, $149,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary may consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: *Provided further*, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 15-passenger capacity requirement under subsection 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act shall be used to enter into a new contract with a community located less than 40 miles from the nearest small hub airport before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a local cost share: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act shall be used to provide essential air service to communities in the 48 contiguous States that require a rate of subsidy per passenger in excess of $500 before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a local cost share so that the per passenger subsidy does not exceed $500.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the modal administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for Congressional notification.

SEC. 102. The Secretary or his designee may engage in activities with States and State legislators to consider proposals related to the reduction of motorcycle fatalities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, strike lines 12 through 14.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of an amendment which I am offering with Representatives SENSENBRENNER and RIBBLE of Wisconsin. I believe this amendment represents a simple, commonsense change to an otherwise excellent bill.

I thank Chairman LATHAM and his staff for their hard work in getting us here today.

Mr. Chairman, current Federal law prohibits Federal agencies from lobbying Congress in support of or against legislation. Thanks to Representative SENSENBRENNER's past leadership, Congress passed similar antilobbying language to prohibit the Department of Transportation from lobbying State and local officials in 1998.

In 1997, the Government Accountability Office released a report on activities undertaken by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, NHTSA, to allow the State legislators to enact State motorcycle helmet laws or discourage the repeal of existing State laws.

At the cost of tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars, NHTSA officials traveled across the country to testify before State legislative committees, participated in conferences, and produced videotapes and other printed materials all towards the goal of weakening State laws requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets.

NHTSA has an appropriate role to play in developing programs that prevent accidents, but Congress has made it clear they should not be in the business of lobbying State legislatures. Unfortunately, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 included language which repealed the lobby ban, and that provision is carried over into this bill. Allowing Federal agencies to lobby States would add to the severe governmental overreach, while violating the principles our Founding Fathers laid out in the 10th Amendment.

The amendment I am offering today clarifies that Federal Government agencies should not be in the business of lobbying State legislators. It is an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars, and it violates the rights of States and local communities to make their own decisions. Just as importantly, I believe these funds can be better spent on programs to prevent distracted driving or on educating riders and the driving public.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, we would be happy to accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would strike a provision that has been carried in every Transportation appropriations bill since 2009.

Section 102 simply grants the Secretary or his representatives the authority to engage in activities with States and State legislators to consider proposals related to the reduction of motorcycle fatalities. In 2012, there were nearly 5,000 motorcycle fatalities, which represented an increase of more than 7 percent over the previous year.

The research and expertise of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can be extremely helpful to State highway traffic safety agencies as they consider measures to improve motorcycle safety. We ought to provide any resource necessary to help States address this important safety issue.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 103. Notwithstanding section 3324 of title 31, United States Code, in addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to provide payments in advance to vendors that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order 13150 and section 3049 of Public Law 109–59: *Provided*, That the Department shall include adequate safeguards in the contract with the vendors to ensure timely and high-quality performance under the contract.

SEC. 104. The Secretary shall post on the Web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Credit Council, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Credit Council to record the decisions and actions of each meeting.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Aviation Administration, not otherwise provided for, including operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses for research and development, establishment of air navigation facilities, the operation (including leasing) and maintenance of aircraft, subsidizing the cost of aeronautical charts and maps sold to the public, lease or purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, in addition to amounts made available by Public Law 112–95, $9,750,000,000 of which $8,595,000,000 shall be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, of which not to exceed $7,396,654,000 shall be available for air traffic organization activities; not to exceed $1,218,458,000 shall be available for aviation safety activities; not to exceed $16,000,000 shall be available for commercial space transportation activities; not to exceed $762,652,000 shall be available for finance and management activities; not to exceed $60,089,000 shall be available for NextGen and operations planning activities; and not to exceed $296,147,000 shall be available for staff offices: *Provided*, That not to exceed 2 percent of any budget activity, except for aviation safety budget activity, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation by more than 2 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 2 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of Public Law 108–176: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $100,000 for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to the Congress: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a companion report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format similar to the one utilized for the controller staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a nonprofit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for new applicants for the second career training program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized by law after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign authorities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred in the provision of agency services, including receipts for the maintenance and operation of air navigation facilities, and for issuance, renewal or modification of certificates, including airman, aircraft, and repair station certificates, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $140,000,000 shall be for the contract tower program, of which $9,500,000 is for the contract tower cost share program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act for aeronautical charting and cartography are available for activities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for acquisition, establishment, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including initial acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; engineering and service testing, including construction of test facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; construction and furnishing of quarters and related accommodations for officers and employees of the Federal Aviation Administration stationed at remote localities where such accommodations are not available; and the purchase, lease, or transfer of aircraft from funds available under this heading, including aircraft for aviation regulation and certification; to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, $2,600,000,000, of which $463,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015, and $2,137,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, for expenses incurred in the establishment, improvement, and modernization of national airspace systems: *Provided further*, That upon initial submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2016 President's budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Congress a comprehensive capital investment plan for the Federal Aviation Administration which includes funding for each budget line item for fiscal years 2016 through 2020, with total funding for each year of the plan constrained to the funding targets for those years as estimated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for research, engineering, and development, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant, $156,750,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, which shall be available for expenses incurred for research, engineering, and development.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For liquidation of obligations incurred for grants-in-aid for airport planning and development, and noise compatibility planning and programs as authorized under subchapter I of chapter 471 and subchapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, and under other law authorizing such obligations; for procurement, installation, and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems at airports of such title; for grants authorized under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code; and for inspection activities and administration of airport safety programs, including those related to airport operating certificates under section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, $3,200,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of

the funds under this heading shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the obligations for which are in excess of $3,350,000,000 in fiscal year 2015, notwithstanding section 47117(g) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the replacement of baggage conveyor systems, reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, or other airport improvements that are necessary to install bulk explosive detection systems: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of funds limited under this heading, not more than $107,100,000 shall be obligated for administration, not less than $15,000,000 shall be available for the Airport Cooperative Research Program, not less than $29,750,000 shall be available for Airport Technology Research, and $3,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available and transferred to ''Office of the Secretary, Salaries and Expenses'' to carry out the Small Community Air Service Development Program.

(CANCELLATION)

Of the amounts authorized under sections 48103 and 48112 of Title 49, United States Code, $260,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled from amounts authorized for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 and prior years.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 110. None of the funds in this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technical staff-years under the federally funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 111. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: *Provided*, That the prohibition of funds in this section does not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on ''below-market'' rates for these items or to grant assurances that require airport sponsors to provide land without cost to the FAA for air traffic control facilities.

SEC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy 49 U.S.C. 41742(a)(1) from fees credited under 49 U.S.C. 45303 and any amount remaining in such account at the close of that fiscal year may be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) for the subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40113(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection, to be merged with and available for the same purposes of such appropriation.

SEC. 114. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under subsection 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SEC. 115. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for retention bonuses for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be used to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number from any display of the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Situational Display to Industry data that is made available to the public, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 118. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 9 political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 44721 of title 49, United States Code, until the FAA provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the report related to aeronautical navigation products referred to in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds appropriated or limited by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Contingent upon reauthorization, not to exceed $426,100,000, together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be paid in accordance with law from appropriations made available by this Act to the Federal Highway Administration for necessary expenses for administration and operation. In addition, not to exceed $3,248,000 shall be paid from appropriations made available by this Act and transferred to the Appalachian Regional Commission in accordance with section 104 of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, funds available for the implementation or execution of programs of Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs authorized under titles 23 and 49, United States Code, and the provisions of Public Law 112–141 shall not exceed total obligations of $40,256,000,000 for fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect and spend fees, as authorized by title 23, United States Code, to cover the costs of services of expert firms, including counsel, in the field of municipal and project finance to assist in the underwriting and servicing of Federal credit instruments and all or a portion of the costs to the Federal Government of servicing such credit instruments: *Provided further*, That such fees are available until expended to pay for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amounts are in addition to administrative expenses that are also available for such purpose, and are not subject to any obligation limitation or the limitation on administrative expenses under section 608 of title 23, United States Code.

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs authorized under title 23, United States Code, $40,995,000,000, derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 120. Contingent upon reauthorization:

(a) For fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years the funds for which are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate of amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; bears to

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraphs (1) through (12) of subsection (b) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(13) for such fiscal year), less the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than programs to which paragraph (1) applies) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act and title 23, United States Code, or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of that title, by multiplying—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year; and

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) and the amounts distributed under paragraph (4), for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs that are apportioned by the Secretary under title 23, United States Code (other than the amounts apportioned for the National Highway Performance Program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, that are exempt from the limitation under subsection (b)(13) and the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under

title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year; bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to all States for such fiscal year.

(b) EXCEPTIONS FROM OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—The obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways shall not apply to obligations under or for—

(1) section 125 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) section 147 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 92 Stat. 2714);

(3) section 9 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 (95 Stat. 1701);

(4) subsections (b) and (j) of section 131 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2119);

(5) subsections (b) and (c) of section 149 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (101 Stat. 198);

(6) sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(7) section 157 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on June 8, 1998);

(8) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 1998 through 2004, but only in an amount equal to $639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(9) Federal-aid Highways programs for which obligation authority was made available under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 107) or subsequent Acts for multiple years or to remain available until expended, but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used;

(10) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2005 through 2012, but only in an amount equal to $639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(11) section 1603 of SAFETEA–LU (23 U.S.C. 118 note; 119 Stat. 1248), to the extent that funds obligated in accordance with that section were not subject to a limitation on obligations at the time at which the funds were initially made available for obligation; and

(12) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, but only in an amount equal to $639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years); and

(13) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (but, for fiscal year 2015, only in an amount equal to $639,000,000).

(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after August 1 of such fiscal year—

(1) revise a distribution of the obligation limitation made available under subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(2) redistribute sufficient amounts to those States able to obligate amounts in addition to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States having large unobligated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112–141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) division E of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

(e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds (excluding funds authorized for the program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code) that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid Highways programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be apportioned to the States under section 204 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) RATIO.—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid Highways account for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses: *Provided*, That such funds shall be subject to the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under his or her statutory authority, any Buy America requirement for Federal-aid Highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall provide an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on any waivers granted under the Buy America requirements.

SEC. 123. (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available, limited, or otherwise affected by this Act shall be used to approve or otherwise authorize the imposition of any toll on any segment of highway located on the Federal-aid system in the State of Texas that—

(1) as of the date of enactment of this Act, is not tolled;

(2) is constructed with Federal assistance provided under title 23, United States Code; and

(3) is in actual operation as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) NUMBER OF TOLL LANES.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any segment of highway on the Federal-aid system described in that subsection that, as of the date on which a toll is imposed on the segment, will have the same number of nontoll lanes as were in existence prior to that date.

(2) HIGH-OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES.—A high-occupancy vehicle lane that is converted to a toll lane shall not be subject to this section, and shall not be considered to be a nontoll lane for purposes of determining whether a highway will have fewer nontoll lanes than prior to the date of imposition of the toll, if—

(A) high-occupancy vehicles occupied by the number of passengers specified by the entity operating the toll lane may use the toll lane without paying a toll, unless otherwise specified by the appropriate county, town, municipal or other local government entity, or public toll road or transit authority; or

(B) each high-occupancy vehicle lane that was converted to a toll lane was constructed as a temporary lane to be replaced by a toll lane under a plan approved by the appropriate county, town, municipal or other local government entity, or public toll road or transit authority.

SEC. 124. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under sections 603 and 604 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 125. Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) OPERATION OF VEHICLES ON CERTAIN OTHER WISCONSIN HIGHWAYS.—If any segment of the United States Route 41 corridor, as described in section 1105(c)(57) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, is designated as a route on the Interstate System, a vehicle that could operate legally on that segment before the date of such designation may continue to operate on that segment, without regard to any requirement under subsection (a).

''(k) LONGER COMBINATION VEHICLES IN IDAHO.—No limit or other prohibition under this section, except as provided in this subsection, applies to a longer combination vehicle operating on a segment of the Interstate System in Idaho if such vehicle—

''(1) has a gross vehicle weight of 129,000 pounds or less;

''(2) complies with the single axle, tandem axle, and bridge formula limits set forth in subsection (a); and

''(3) is authorized to operate on such segment under Idaho State law.

''(l) OPERATION OF VEHICLES ON CERTAIN MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAYS.—If any segment of United States Route 78 in Mississippi from mile marker 0 to mile marker 113 is designated as part of the Interstate System, no limit established under this section may apply to that segment with respect to the operation of any vehicle that could have legally operated on that segment before such designation.''.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 34, line 15, strike the closing quotation marks and final period.

Page 34, after line 15, insert the following:

''(m) LOGGING VEHICLES IN WISCONSIN.—No limit or other prohibition under this section, except as provided in this subsection, applies

to a vehicle transporting raw or unfinished forest product and operating on Interstate Route 39 in Wisconsin from mile marker 175.8 to mile marker 189 if such vehicle has a gross vehicle weight of 98,000 pounds or less.''.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, in central and northern Wisconsin, logging is an incredibly important industry for our community and for our economy.

In Mosinee, Wisconsin, we have a very large paper mill. A vast majority of the wood that feeds that paper mill comes from northern Wisconsin. What happens is, the wood is harvested in northern Wisconsin and it comes down Highway 51, where the weight limit for trucks is 98,000 pounds. In Wausau, Wisconsin, Highway 51 turns into I–39. It is at that time that the weight limit goes from 98,000 pounds down to 80,000 pounds. At that point, those logging trucks are still 12 miles away from their destination, the paper mill.

So what happens is our logging trucks go off the interstate and go onto our back roads—through our communities, through our neighborhoods, through downtown—where we have very tight-fitted areas and much narrower roads, all so they can make it to the paper mill.

What my amendment would do, it would allow for a 12-mile extension so those trucks can come from our forests in northern Wisconsin and stay on the freeway that extra 12 miles to get to the paper mill.

This amendment is an amendment that affects the safety of my community—my constituents—and it would have a small impact on our economy so those trucks have a straight route to the paper mill.

With that, I would ask that my colleagues support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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 to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment directly amends existing law and is not merely perfecting to the existing text of the bill.

I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. DUFFY. I do, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized to speak on the point of order.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, what I would just ask then is that the chairman and the ranking member, when this goes to conference committee, if they would consider the issue that I brought up today, and consider my constituents and the safety of my constituents in central and northern Wisconsin.

With that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 31104(i) of title 49, United States Code, and sections 4127 and 4134 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, $259,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the sum of which shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for implementation, execution or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of $259,000,000 for ''Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs'' for fiscal year 2015, of which $9,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017, is for the research and technology program, and of which $1,000,000 shall be available for commercial motor vehicle operator's grants to carry out section 4134 of Public Law 109–59, and of which $34,545,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017, is for information management.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31104(a), 31106, 31107, 31109, 31309, 31313 of title 49, United States Code, and sections 4126 and 4128 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, $313,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of $313,000,000 in fiscal year 2015 for ''Motor Carrier Safety Grants''; of which $218,000,000 shall be available for the motor carrier safety assistance program, $30,000,000 shall be available for the commercial driver's license improvements program, $32,000,000 shall be available for border enforcement grants, $5,000,000 shall be available for the performance and registration information system management program, $25,000,000 shall be available for the commercial vehicle information systems and networks deployment program, and $3,000,000 shall be available for the safety data improvement program: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available herein for the motor carrier safety assistance program, $32,000,000 shall be available for audits of new entrant motor carriers.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. Funds appropriated or limited in this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in section 350 of Public Law 107–87 and section 6901 of Public Law 110–28.

SEC. 131. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall send notice of 49 C.F.R. section 385.308 violations by certified mail, registered mail, or another manner of delivery, which records the receipt of the notice by the persons responsible for the violations.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary to discharge the functions of the Secretary, with respect to traffic and highway safety authorized under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, $134,000,000, of which $22,500,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2016.

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, $128,500,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2015, are in excess of $128,500,000, of which $123,500,000 shall be for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 403 and $5,000,000 shall be for the National Driver Register authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That within the $123,500,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, $22,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years: *Provided further*, That $10,000,000 of the total obligation limitation for operations and research in fiscal year 2015 shall be applied toward unobligated balances of contract authority provided in prior Acts for carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 402 and 405, section 2009 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, and section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112–141, to remain available until expended, $561,500,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account): *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2015, are in excess of $561,500,000 for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 402 and 405, section 2009 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, and section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112–141, of which $235,000,000 shall be for ''Highway Safety Programs'' under 23 U.S.C. 402; $272,000,000 shall be for ''National Priority Safety Programs'' under 23 U.S.C. 405; $29,000,000 shall be for ''High Visibility Enforcement Program'' under section 2009 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141; $25,500,000 shall be for ''Administrative Expenses'' under section 31101(a)(6) of

Public Law 112–141: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used for construction, rehabilitation, or remodeling costs, or for office furnishings and fixtures for State, local or private buildings or structures: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $500,000 of the funds made available for ''National Priority Safety Programs'' under 23 U.S.C. 405 for ''Impaired Driving Countermeasures'' (as described in subsection (d) of that section) shall be available for technical assistance to the States: *Provided further*, That with respect to the ''Transfers'' provision under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(G), any amounts transferred to increase the amounts made available under section 402 shall include the obligation authority for such amounts: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of any exercise of the authority granted under the previous proviso or under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(G) within 60 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 140. Contingent upon reauthorization, an additional $130,000 shall be made available to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, out of the amount limited for section 402 of title 23, United States Code, to pay for travel and related expenses for State management reviews and to pay for core competency development training and related expenses for highway safety staff.

SEC. 141. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration set in this Act shall not apply to obligations for which obligation authority was made available in previous public laws but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

SEC. 142. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to implement section 404 of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration, not otherwise provided for, $185,250,000, of which $12,400,000 shall remain available until expended.

RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for railroad research and development, $35,250,000, to remain available until expended.

RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM

The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to issue direct loans and loan guarantees pursuant to sections 501 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–210), as amended, such authority to exist as long as any such direct loan or loan guarantee is outstanding: *Provided*, That, pursuant to section 502 of such Act, as amended, no new direct loans or loan guarantee commitments shall be made using Federal funds for the credit risk premium during fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That no new direct loans or loan guarantee commitments made under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program in fiscal year 2015 shall cause the total principal amount of direct loans and loan guarantees committed under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program to projects in a single state to exceed $5,600,000,000.

OPERATING GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make quarterly grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, in amounts based on the Secretary's assessment of the Corporation's seasonal cash flow requirements, for the operation of intercity passenger rail, as authorized by section 101 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–432), $340,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amounts available under this paragraph shall be available for the Secretary to approve funding to cover operating losses for the Corporation only after receiving and reviewing a grant request for each specific train route: *Provided further*, That each such grant request shall be accompanied by a detailed financial analysis, revenue projection, and capital expenditure projection justifying the Federal support to the Secretary's satisfaction: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Corporation shall transmit, in electronic format, to the Secretary and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the annual budget, business plan, the 5-Year Financial Plan for fiscal year 2015 required under section 204 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 and the comprehensive fleet plan for all Amtrak rolling stock: *Provided further*, That the budget, business plan and the 5-Year Financial Plan shall include annual information on the maintenance, refurbishment, replacement, and expansion for all Amtrak rolling stock consistent with the comprehensive fleet plan: *Provided further*, That the Corporation shall provide monthly performance reports in an electronic format which shall describe the work completed to date, any changes to the business plan, and the reasons for such changes as well as progress against the milestones and target dates of the 2012 performance improvement plan: *Provided further*, That the Corporation's budget, business plan, 5-Year Financial Plan, semiannual reports, monthly reports, comprehensive fleet plan and all supplemental reports or plans comply with requirements in Public Law 112–55: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used to support any route on which Amtrak offers a discounted fare of more than 50 percent off the normal peak fare: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso does not apply to routes where the operating loss as a result of the discount is covered by a State and the State participates in the setting of fares.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 42, line 15, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $340,000,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $340,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reduce the amount appropriated for the operating grants to Amtrak by $340 million and increase the spending reduction account by the same amount. This reduction would eliminate all operating funds for Amtrak.

My amendment to some might be quite harsh, but I suspect that my colleagues who support Amtrak will argue that since the underlying bill keeps funding at concurrent levels, we should leave the embattled entity alone.

But the committee report for this bill gives us plenty of reasons why we shouldn't allow Amtrak to continue at the status quo.

The first sentence in the committee report says:

> Amtrak runs a deficit each year and requires a Federal subsidy to cover both operating losses and capital improvements.

A couple of paragraphs later it says:

> Although the Northeast corridor is profitable, the federally mandated services such as long-distance and State-supported routes sustain large losses that cannot be overcome by Amtrak's profitable services.

Let's talk about the long-distance routes, Mr. Chairman.

According to Amtrak's fiscal year 2013 ridership tables, the long-distance routes experienced the highest ridership in 20 years at 4.8 million passengers. That sounds pretty good. But despite this growth, these routes still lost $587 million last year. In other words, for every passenger who traveled on one of Amtrak's long-distance routes last year, Amtrak lost $122.29.

□ 1500

If you found a good deal on Priceline, we might be able to actually cut our losses by buying these passengers one-way airline tickets, and they would get to their destinations much more quickly.

I wish I could say that this was the extent of Amtrak's failures. Unfortunately, I can't.

Let's go back to the committee report. The report also addresses Amtrak's notoriously wasteful food and beverage service, which lost an estimated $73 million in fiscal year 2013 alone. Over the last 5 years, food and beverage service has been responsible for approximately $387 million in total losses, on top of the long-distance losses.

Look at the fine print. The committee points out that Amtrak routinely cooks its books to make these losses look better, usually by transferring amounts from first class tickets onto the food and beverage accounts. The current Amtrak inspector general has reported that these transfers have increased by more than $22 million between fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2012.

So while the topline numbers make it look as though the food and beverage losses have gotten slightly less over the past year, with current estimated cost recovery at a paltry 65 percent, these numbers can't be trusted in the least.

Had enough, Mr. Chairman?

Let me leave you with one final thought: Amtrak is losing money hand over fist. They are cooking their books. There is not an end in sight.

How much do you suppose Amtrak's food and beverage service employees are paid annually? According to the committee report, these 1,200 employees are paid an average $106,000 a year.

Amtrak is a pseudo-private entity with priorities that are way, way out of whack, and it will not become solvent, it will not right itself, until Congress steps up and says enough is enough, and now is the time for enough.

I urge my colleagues to join me and send Amtrak a message that its mismanagement should come to an end and that it is intolerable to us and the U.S. taxpayers.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would shut down Amtrak.

I concede that Amtrak could be more efficient. However, it has made significant improvements in this area recently, and it is moving in the right direction.

The bill provides $340 million in operation grants to Amtrak, which fully cover Amtrak's anticipated operating losses for fiscal year 2015. This is a realistic number that we base on Amtrak's most recent operating loss projections.

The bill does not include arbitrary funding decisions. We held hearings, and we scrubbed every account. It isn't prudent to eliminate an entire transportation option.

I urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I would tell my colleague and friend, the Congressman from Georgia, that harsh is more than mild, in what you want to do.

I know that you and I want to continue to have constituents take the ''Midnight Train to Georgia,'' and I can't support your amendment.

I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I don't do Amtrak because we have just a few lines in Arizona, but I understand that Amtrak is very important to the Northeast and other parts of the country.

In my opinion, this is the Nation's railroad line. We need to improve it. I am for that. This amendment would not improve it. It would eliminate it.

I am in opposition to this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 42, line 15, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $34,000,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $34,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is along the same lines as the amendment I just offered, only it would reduce Amtrak operating grants by a paltry amount of only $34 million or just a 10 percent reduction.

In offering my last amendment, I laid out a number of reasons why Amtrak has failed to be a good steward of taxpayers' money.

I understand that many of my colleagues might not want to fully defund this entity, so I am now asking that we join together and send a message to Amtrak leadership, a smaller message, but a strong one nonetheless.

I am asking my colleagues to tell Amtrak that we will not continue to reward bad behavior and that, when we ask for reform, we expect real reform to begin and take place—not fuzzy numbers, not misleading reports, not sky-high employee salaries, but real, honest reform.

Amtrak has struggled for way too long under the status quo. It is time to send them a message.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I have to oppose the amendment.

The fact of the matter is the bill provides $340 billion in operating grants to Amtrak, which will fully cover their operating losses. If in fact the amendment were put in place, there could very easily be interruptions of service in the Northeast or throughout the system, and it could cause real problems as far as the operations itself, obviously, of Amtrak.

For those reasons, I would oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, we are also in opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CAPITAL AND DEBT SERVICE GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for capital investments as authorized by section 101(c), 102, and 219(b) of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–432), $850,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $150,000,000 shall be for debt service obligations as authorized by section 102 of such Act: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than $50,000,000 shall be made available to bring Amtrak-served facilities and stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act: *Provided further*, That after an initial distribution of up to $200,000,000, which shall be used by the Corporation as a working capital account, all remaining funds shall be provided to the Corporation only on a reimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to $20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary to subsidize operating losses of the Corporation should the funds provided under the heading ''Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' be insufficient to meet operational costs for fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund the costs of project management and oversight of activities authorized by subsections 101(a) and 101(c) of division B of Public Law 110–432: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall approve funding for capital expenditures, including advance purchase orders of materials, for the Corporation only after receiving and reviewing a grant request for each specific capital project justifying the Federal support to the Secretary's satisfaction: *Provided further*, That except as otherwise provided herein, none of the funds under this heading may be used to subsidize operating losses of the Corporation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds under this heading may be used for capital projects not approved by the Secretary of Transportation or on the Corporation's fiscal year 2015 business plan: *Provided further*, That in addition to the project management oversight funds authorized under section 101(d) of division B of Public Law 110–432, the Secretary may retain up to an additional $5,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with implementing section 212 of division B of Public Law 110–432, including the amendments made by section 212 to section 24905 of title 49, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 150. The Secretary of Transportation may receive and expend cash, or receive and utilize spare parts and similar items, from non-United States Government sources to repair damages to or replace United States Government owned automated track inspection cars and equipment as a result of third-party liability for such damages, and any amounts collected under this section shall be credited directly to the Safety and Operations account of the Federal Railroad Administration, and shall remain available until expended for the repair, operation and maintenance of automated track inspection cars and equipment in connection with the automated track inspection program.

SEC. 151. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to allow the issuer of any preferred stock heretofore sold to the Department to redeem or repurchase such stock upon the payment to the Department of an amount to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 152. None of the funds provided to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of $35,000 for any individual employee: *Provided*, That the president of Amtrak may

waive the cap set in the previous proviso for specific employees when the president of Amtrak determines such a cap poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: *Provided further*, That Amtrak shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations each quarter of the calendar year on waivers granted to employees and amounts paid above the cap for each month within such quarter and provide documentation of the specific activities of each employee during his or her paid overtime in excess of $35,000 and how the work resulted in increased safety or operational efficiencies: *Provided further*, That the president of Amtrak shall certify the documentation in the previous proviso is accurate and correct: *Provided further*, That Amtrak shall provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by March 1, 2015, a summary of all overtime payments incurred by the Corporation for 2014 and the two prior calendar years: *Provided further*, That such summary shall include the total number of employees that received waivers and the total overtime payments the Corporation paid to those employees receiving waivers for each month for 2014 and for the two prior calendar years.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For necessary administrative expenses of the Federal Transit Administration's programs authorized by chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, $103,000,000, of which not more than $4,000,000 shall be available to carry out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5329 and not less than $1,000,000 shall be available to carry out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5326: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided or limited in this Act may be used to create a permanent office of transit security under this heading: *Provided further*, That upon submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2016 President's budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress the annual report on New Starts, including proposed allocations for fiscal year 2016.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BUTTERFIELD

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 48, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 49, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 49, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I am offering today with my good friends—Congressman LANGEVIN, Congressman PRICE, and Congressman QUIGLEY—will increase funding for FTA technical assistance and training back simply to the 2014 levels.

Individuals with disabilities and older adults disproportionately rely on public transit to live, learn, work, and access recreation in their communities. There is a complex and ever-evolving need to adapt our transit systems and services, so they are more accessible for people with disabilities and older adults who rely on them.

FTA, Mr. Chairman, has a long history of working with Easter Seals, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and others to provide training, technical assistance, and other problem-solving support to the transit industry, people with disabilities, and older adults; and it is imperative for this work to continue as more people age and more people with disabilities seek to live as independently as possible.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We will accept the amendment.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you, Mr. LATHAM.

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, the amendment I authored with my good friends Congressman PRICE, Congressman QUIGLEY and Congressman BUTTERFIELD will increase funding for FTA Technical Assistance and Training, returning them to their 2014 levels.

The technical assistance and training dollars made available by this amendment will help increase mobility for people with disabilities and older adults. By providing this assistance to our transit systems and services, we can ensure they become more accessible for those who rely on them the most.

Easter Seals, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and others have a long history of working with the FTA to provide training, technical assistance and support services to the transit industry, the elderly and peole with disabilities. It is critical for this work to continue, especially as more people age and more of those with disabilities seek to live as independently as possible.

For FTA to do this effectively, it must have adequate resources to support these technical assitance activities.

Accordingly, our amendment will increase funding by $2 million for FTA Technical Assistance and Training, restoring it to $5 million, which equals last year's levels.

Individuals with disabilities and older adults disproportionately rely on public transit to work, live, learn, and access recreation in their communities. I ask that my colleagues support this amendment, which will provide immeasurable benefits to all those it serves.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFIN OF ARKANSAS

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 48, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

Page 57, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking Chairman LATHAM.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We accept the amendment.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I want to, again, thank Chairman LATHAM, who has made this possible, working with his staff. I want to thank all the bipartisan support for this amendment from Mr. KIND, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. TERRY, as well as my staff.

I want to acknowledge the success that this builds on from the omnibus bill passed earlier this year, which incorporated my amendment from the FY14 T-HUD bill to increase funding for DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA, over lower priority programs.

Mr. Chairman, on March 29, 2014, the ExxonMobil Pegasus pipeline in Mayflower, Arkansas, the Second Congressional District, suffered a catastrophic accidental rupture.

It inundated nearby homes and businesses with thousands of gallons of spilled oil. I am committed to making things right for the people of Mayflower and ensuring that another spill never occurs again in Arkansas.

PHMSA is the Federal Government's primary agency for regulating and ensuring the safe and secure movement of oil and petroleum products to industry and consumers through America's interstate pipelines. As an interstate pipeline, the inspection of the Pegasus pipeline was and is PHMSA's responsibility.

Pipelines move nearly two-thirds of the oil and petroleum products transported annually. Interstate pipelines deliver over 11.3 billion barrels of petroleum each year. The cost to transport a barrel of petroleum products from Houston to the New York Harbor is about a dollar.

American pipelines are, without question, the safest way to move oil, and ensuring the safe operation of pipelines that move oil from one State to another is unquestionably a necessary function of the Federal Government.

Although the amount of oil spilled from these pipelines is a minimal fraction of what we safely transport every day throughout the country, there is more we can do to ensure they are operated safely.

My amendment would increase the budget for PHMSA's operational expenses by $500,000 to further ensure the safety of our Nation's pipeline, and it will be taking this money from another account.

This appropriation finances the operational support costs for PHMSA and will help keep these pipelines and the communities like Mayflower that surround them safe from other tragic but preventable accidents, without spending additional dollars.

I ask that the House support this amendment.

I thank the chairman for supporting this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1515

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon enactment of multi-year surface transportation authorization legislation, for payment of obligations incurred in the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program in this account, and for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5318, 5322(d), 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by Public Law 112–141; and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112–141, as amended, $9,500,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5318, 5322(d), 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by Public Law 112–141, and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112–141, shall not exceed total obligations of $8,595,000,000 in fiscal year 2015.

TRANSIT RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5312 and 5313, $15,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That $14,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5312 and $1,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5313.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5314 and 5322(a), (b) and (e), $3,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That $2,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5314 and $1,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5322(a), (b) and (e).

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5309, $1,691,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances made available under this heading in division L of Public Law 113-76, $65,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 601 of division B of Public Law 110–432, $150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall approve grants for capital and preventive maintenance expenditures for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and reviewing a request for each specific project: *Provided further*, That, prior to approving such grants, the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, in order to ensure safety throughout the rail system, may waive the requirements of section 601(e)(1) of title VI of Public Law 110–432 (112 Stat. 4968).

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or limited by this Act under the heading ''Fixed Guideway Capital Investment'' of the Federal Transit Administration for projects specified in this Act or identified in reports accompanying this Act not obligated by September 30, 2019, and other recoveries, shall be directed to projects eligible to use the funds for the purposes for which they were originally provided.

SEC. 162. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2014, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 163. For purposes of applying the project justification and local financial commitment criteria of 49 U.S.C. 5309(d) to a New Starts project, the Secretary may consider the costs and ridership of any connected project in an instance in which private parties are making significant financial contributions to the construction of the connected project; additionally, the Secretary may consider the significant financial contributions of private parties to the connected project in calculating the non-Federal share of net capital project costs for the New Starts project.

SEC. 164. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act shall be used to enter into a full funding grant agreement for a project with a New Starts share greater than 50 percent.

SEC. 165. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be available to advance in any way a new light or heavy rail project towards a full funding grant agreement as defined by 49 U.S.C. 5309 for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas if the proposed capital project is constructed on or planned to be constructed on Richmond Avenue west of South Shepherd Drive or on Post Oak Boulevard north of Richmond Avenue in Houston, Texas.

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 52, strike lines 13 through 21.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today, I rise to introduce an amendment to strike section 165 from the underlying bill. Section 165 states that no funds ''in this or any other act'' may be available for a light or heavy rail project in Houston, Texas, if the route goes through Richmond or down Post Oak Boulevard.

This language is contrary to the will of the voters of Harris County, Texas, and should not be included in this Federal Government appropriations bill. Houstonians voted in support of new transportation options for the Houston area in a local referendum in 2003. Now some disagree with the results of that referendum, but local voters have made their decision, and I rise to support their right to make these decisions in Houston, Texas, and in local elections without the interference of Congress.

If the Federal Government has the right to overrule a local election and referendum, then what is next?

Blocking Federal funds via obscure riders in appropriations bills in order to try and steer routing decisions is wrong. It is inappropriate overreach by the Federal Government. It violates the will of the voters of Harris County, and, ultimately, it hurts the City of Houston, Texas.

For Members outside of Texas who may be unfamiliar with this debate, the precedent that this language will set, if allowed to remain in the bill, is far-reaching, and it will affect more than just Texas. The passage of this language as is means that local votes just don't matter to Congress and that local officials don't really decide transportation matters in each State and city because these decisions can be toyed with and overruled by Congress.

This language is also bad policy. It is a throwback to the old Houston when our only transportation plan was to build more highways as far as the eye could see and block attempts to do anything else.

Houston has one of the most expansive and efficient highway systems in the world, and, with the soon-to-be-completed Grand Parkway, the system will be even better, but we can only build so many roads. We can only build so many concrete monstrosities like the I–10 West corridor. Over 130,000 people moved to Harris County last year. That is as many as in Charleston, South Carolina, and another estimated 150,000 will move to Harris County next year. Houston will soon be the third largest city in the country, overtaking Chicago. With this increase in population, we need solutions for transportation, not attempts to stonewall all options from Washington.

The debate that we are having on the floor is not about whether or not METRO is doing a good job, nor is it even about METRO. We know that METRO has had its fair share of problems over the years. It must get its financial house in order, and it must become efficient. It also must get the credibility it needs from the voters once again, but it is not our job to debate that local issue in Congress. The voters in a local referendum made that decision 11 years ago. It is an inappropriate misuse of authority to divert money away from Houston because the Federal Government disagrees with the outcome of a local election. As the saying goes, we need to let Texans run Texas. These decisions should be made at the local level.

Supporters of this language may try to argue that this is an attempt at fiscal responsibility. That is nonsense. This money is already appropriated for Houston. If Houston doesn't use it, it is not going back into the coffers, and it is not going to pay down the national debt. The money is going to some other city that will take the money. The idea that we will not take available transportation money for Houston sets a bad precedent for Houston because the next time Houston wants some Federal money, which is taxpayer money, we

may not be so fortunate to get that money, because the folks up here said: Well, we offered you money once before, and you didn't take it. No more money for transportation.

Houston is a donor State. Of the funds we send up here, 91 percent is all we get back. We don't get the other 9 percent.

This is about the availability of transportation money to Houston, Texas. The underlying bill prohibits that money because of certain factors in the Houston area that don't like the outcome of this election and that don't like light rail. Debate that issue in the city. Let city officials make that decision. Let METRO make that decision. Let there be a lively debate among the citizens who are affected by light rail, but don't let Congress come in and overrule the will of the people of Houston, Texas, in an election that they had 11 years ago to accept Federal funding when it is appropriate for us to take it.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. Chairman, I submit for the RECORD letters from the North Montrose Civic Association, the Greater Houston Partnership, the Upper Kirby Management District, the Transportation Advocacy Group Houston Region, the Women in Transportation, letters from the mayor's office, the Washington Avenue Improvement Committee, Houston Tomorrow, and other letters that I have received in support of my amendment.

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP,
Houston, Texas, June 6, 2014.

Subject: Federal funding is crucial for Houston

Hon. TED POE,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC

DEAR CONGRESSMAN POE: On behalf of the 2,100 members of the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), we thank you for your leadership in Congress. In particular, we thank you for your efforts to ensure that every dollar of federal funding that is available to the greater Houston region continues to flow to our region.

As an economic development organization we have been successful in attracting new businesses and development to our region since our establishment in 1989. In 2013, we estimate that our region brought in more than 300 projects, totaling more than $20 billion in capital investment, more than 20,000 new employees, and more than 30 million square feet in development. Since 2009, the businesses that GHP attracted to our region equates to $22.9 billion in economic development. A significant reason for our success has been our ability to leverage federal dollars in order to guarantee that our infrastructure is highly functional and our business climate is attractive. When relocating, businesses are attracted to cities that are progressing and planning for the future.

At GHP, we continuously analyze issues of regional significance. Importantly, we also survey the Houston business community as well as business leaders across the nation and around the world to gauge perceptions about how Houston compares to other major metropolitan areas. One challenge for our region is the need to improve the attractiveness and quality of life aspects of Houston. Without improvements we will not be able to attract global talent and address local socio-economic gaps that can hinder our region. Houston simply cannot afford to have limitations on federal funding or turn away money that can be utilized to make our region a better place to live, work and build a business. We are setting a bad precedent.

As the largest business organization in the greater Houston region we encourage you to continue to stand up for your constituents. We share your commitment and dedication to the betterment of our region, and we thank you for your leadership on this issue. We stand ready to assist.

Regards,

BOB HARVEY,
President & CEO.

TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY GROUP,
Houston Region, June 6, 2014.

Hon. TED POE,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE POE: TAG–Houston Region advocates for adequate and sustainable transportation infrastructure funding for all modes of transportation. We urge you to oppose any proposed legislation that would restrict the ability to deploy transit in the Houston region. We are making great strides in Houston towards meaningful transit access for all Houstonians. We cannot afford to lose this momentum.

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Most sincerely,

JACK DRAKE,
Chairman, TAG–Houston Region.
ANDREA FRENCH,
Executive Director, TAG–Houston Region.

JUNE 9, 2014.

Hon. TED POE,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. POE: WTS Houston is a premier transportation organization of men and women dedicated to the advancement of women in the transportation industry. Encompassing the Texas Gulf Coast region, our membership is comprised of industry giants that take on Road and Bridge, Rail, Aviation, Transit and Port related transportation projects. Representing public agencies and private firms, WTS Houston boasts over 70 members and our corporate members include industry leaders from across the nation.

Regarding transportation legislation currently under discussion in Congress, our organization is opposed to any legislative restrictions on federal funding for transportation in Houston, Texas. The Houston region is one of the fastest growing urban areas in the country. However, the region will not be able to maintain its economic vitality without the ability to create and preserve the infrastructure that supports the movement of people and goods through Texas and the country.

Sincerely,

MEREDITH ALBERTO,
WTS Houston Immediate Past President.

MONTROSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,
June 8, 2014.

Re Legislative Restrictions on Federal Funding for Transportation projects in Houston, Texas.

Hon. TED POE,
Second Congressional District, Houston, Texas.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN POE: I write you on behalf of the Board of Directors for the Montrose Management District to express our concern over actions proposed by Congressman Culberson related to restriction of the use of future federal funding for mobility and rail projects in Houston.

The Board of Directors for the District have expressed support for the development of rail along the Richmond avenue corridor as it falls in line with the District's overall goal of seeing economic development occur within the District. We believe that any continued limitation on the use of federal funding to expand the Metro Rail system along Richmond, with its vital and necessary east/west connection from the central part of the City to the Galleria area should be eliminated. We need Washington's help with this significant mobility project, not only for the benefits it will clearly derive to those that live and work in the Montrose area, but also to help the City of Houston attain a higher level of air quality through the elimination of traffic congestion and pollution that occurs through emissions from gas and diesel burning engines.

Please know that we support any efforts you might take to lift or defeat the further imposition of limitations on the use of federal funding for transportation projects in Houston, Texas. Thank you for your continued hard work and support.

Sincerely,

BILL CALDERON,
Executive Director, Montrose Management District.

UNIVERSITY PLACE ASSOCIATION,
Houston, Texas, June 6, 2014.

Congressman TED POE,
Congressman MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Congressman AL GREEN,
Congressman PETE OLSON,
Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Congressman GENE GREEN,
Congressman RANDY WEBER,
Congressman KEVIN BRADY.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN AND CONGRESSWOMAN: On behalf of the Board of Directors of University Place Association & Super Neighborhood, I am writing to oppose the proposed legislation that would restrict Metro's ability to deploy transit in the Houston region.

On June 9th, we urge you to please remove any Federal limits to the future of transit in the Houston region. Imposing unnecessary, arbitrary limits on the future choices of the people of Houston—such as those in section 165 of HR 4575—would be a huge mistake.

Sincerely,

KATHIE EASTERLY,
Executive Director.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, in years to come, when history books look back and ask the question why America went bankrupt, they are going to look at my colleague TED POE's amendment as exhibit A. It is very unfortunate that my friend and fellow Texan (Mr. POE), who has until today portrayed himself as a fiscal conservative, would offer an amendment to force the people of my district to spend money we don't have on a project we don't want and that is unaffordable, unnecessary, and unapproved by the voters. These are my constituents, and it has no effect on Mr. POE's district or on anyone else's district.

Mr. POE of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. No, I will not yield.

The amendment is very narrowly drawn, Mr. Chairman, so that it only affects my district. I wrote this amendment because it says that no money can be spent on rail in my district. In the boundaries of District Seven, which is west of Shepherd on Richmond, and on Post Oak, north of Richmond and south Post Oak, those lines are entirely in my district.

The people of my district—I have polled them—oppose this line, and 80 percent of the folks who own property or who live or work on those two streets don't want it. The voters did not approve the line on Richmond. It was not on the ballot. The people on Post Oak do not want it. It will destroy The Galleria.

Mr. POE is advocating for the construction of rail on Richmond and Post Oak, which will destroy those two streets. The Richmond line is not approved by the voters, and the Post Oak line will destroy that area. Houston METRO has no money to build it. They can't afford it. There is no money in this bill or in any other bill to pay for these lines. In fact, for the lines that have been approved by the voters, METRO is building a rail line on the east side of town, which I support, because the voters approved it. The local transit authority is spending $3,000 an inch to build a rail line on the east side of Houston.

This is a waste of money. We simply cannot afford it. That is why the Citizens Against Government Waste opposes Mr. POE's amendment. That is why Americans for Tax Reform opposes Mr. POE's amendment. That is why the National Taxpayers Union opposes Mr. POE's amendment. The Club for Growth opposes Mr. POE's amendment because it is amendments like this—those attempting to force us to spend money we don't have on projects we don't want—that are completely unnecessary, of which the voters did not approve and that are going to bankrupt this Nation. Imagine if you did not want to build a pool in your backyard but that your next-door neighbor had the deed restrictions changed to force you to build a pool in your backyard. That is exactly what this amendment is.

This amendment affects only my district. I am doing my job as their Representative to protect my constituents' quality of life and to protect their pocketbooks against a rail line that we cannot afford and that nobody wants and that voters did not approve. That is why I am proud to have the help and support of Chairman LATHAM and of the ranking member, Mr. PASTOR. Americans for Tax Reform, the National Taxpayers Union, Club for Growth, and Citizens Against Government Waste are all in opposition to this amendment as are the people whom I represent.

I am very disappointed and disheartened that my friend Mr. POE would stand up and offer this amendment and call the Katy Freeway a concrete monstrosity. The Katy Freeway is my pride and joy. The first thing I did when I got elected to Congress was to get the Katy Freeway built without a single earmark and without any new Federal money. We got it built in 5 years and 3 months, and it went from eight lanes to 22 lanes. The economic growth on the west side has ballooned because of the Katy Freeway, and that freeway is moving more cars in less time and at more savings to taxpayers than is any other transportation project in the history of Houston.

I am proud of the Katy Freeway. I am immensely proud to represent my district. This amendment and the language in the bill affect only my district and are in complete conformity with the voters' decision in 2003. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing Mr. POE's amendment and vote ''no.''

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for joining me in the opposition of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 166. Unobligated and recovered fiscal year 2010 through 2012 funds that were made available to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5339 shall be available to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5309, as amended by Public Law 112–141, subject to the terms and conditions required under such section.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Corporation's budget for the current fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

(HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operations, maintenance, and capital asset renewal activities of those portions of the St. Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and maintained by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, $32,500,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 99–662.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet to serve the national security needs of the United States, $166,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law, $132,000,000, of which $11,300,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of training ships at State Maritime Academies, and of which $2,400,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2016, for the Student Incentive Program at State Maritime Academies, and of which $1,500,000 shall remain available until expended for facilities maintenance and repair, equipment, and capital improvements at the United State Merchant Marine Academy: *Provided*, That amounts apportioned for the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall be available only upon allotments made personally by the Secretary of Transportation or the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs: *Provided further*, That the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and the Director of the Office of Resource Management of the United State Merchant Marine Academy may not be allotment holders for the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall hold all allotments made by the Secretary of Transportation or the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That 50 percent of the funding made available for the United States Merchant Marine Academy under this heading shall be available only after the Secretary, in consultation with the Superintendent and the Maritime Administrator, completes a plan detailing by program or activity how such funding will be expended at the Academy, and this plan is submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SHIP DISPOSAL

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet of the Maritime Administration, $4,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI) PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary administrative expenses of the maritime guaranteed loan program, $3,100,000 shall be paid to the appropriations for ''Maritime Administration–Operations and Training'': *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading in division L of Public Law 113–76, $29,000,000 is rescinded.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Maritime Administration is authorized to furnish utilities and services and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration, and payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof: *Provided*, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilities, services, or repairs shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

SEC. 171. None of the funds available or appropriated in this Act shall be used by the United States Department of Transportation or the United States Maritime Administration to negotiate or otherwise execute, enter into, facilitate or perform fee-for-service contracts for vessel disposal, scrapping or recycling, unless there is no qualified domestic ship recycler that will pay any sum of money to purchase and scrap or recycle a vessel owned, operated or managed by the Maritime Administration or that is part of the National Defense Reserve Fleet. Such sales offers must be consistent with the solicitation

and provide that the work will be performed in a timely manner at a facility qualified within the meaning of section 3502 of Public Law 106–398. Nothing contained herein shall affect the Maritime Administration's authority to award contracts at least cost to the Federal Government and consistent with the requirements of 16 U.S.C. 5405(c), section 3502, or otherwise authorized under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, $21,654,000: *Provided*, That $1,500,000 shall be transferred to ''Pipeline Safety'' in order to fund ''Pipeline Safety Information Grants to Communities'' as authorized under section 60130 of title 49, United States Code.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, $52,000,000, of which $7,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That up to $800,000 in fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 5108(g) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for travel expenses incurred in performance of hazardous materials exemptions and approvals functions.

PIPELINE SAFETY

(PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)

(OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)

(PIPELINE SAFETY DESIGN REVIEW FUND)

For expenses necessary to conduct the functions of the pipeline safety program, for grants-in-aid to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 60107, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, $131,500,000, of which $19,500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which $110,000,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund, of which $54,436,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Design Review Fund, as authorized in 49 U.S.C. 60117(n): *Provided*, That not less than $1,058,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be for the One-Call state grant program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

(EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5128(b), $188,000, to be derived from the Emergency Preparedness Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not more than $28,318,000 shall be made available for obligation in fiscal year 2015 from amounts made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(i) and 5128(b)–(c): *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(i), 5128(b), or 5128(c) shall be made available for obligation by individuals other than the Secretary of Transportation, or his or her designee.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $86,223,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the Department: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading may be used to investigate, pursuant to section 41712 of title 49, United States Code: (1) unfair or deceptive practices and unfair methods of competition by domestic and foreign air carriers and ticket agents; and (2) the compliance of domestic and foreign air carriers with respect to item (1) of this proviso: *Provided further*, That: (1) the Inspector General shall have the authority to audit and investigate the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA); (2) in carrying out these audits and investigations the Inspector General shall have all the authorities described under section 6 of the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.); (3) MWAA Board Members, employees, contractors, and subcontractors shall cooperate and comply with requests from the Inspector General, including providing testimony and other information; (4) The Inspector General shall be permitted to observe closed executive sessions of the MWAA Board of Directors; (5) MWAA shall pay the expenses of the Inspector General, including staff salaries and benefits and associated operating costs, which shall be credited to this appropriation and remain available until expended; and (6) if MWAA fails to make funds available to the Inspector General within 30 days after a request for such funds is received, then the Inspector General shall notify the Secretary of Transportation, who shall not approve a grant for MWAA under section 47107(b) of title 49, United States Code, until such funding is made available for the Inspector General: *Provided further*, That hereafter funds transferred to the Office of the Inspector General through forfeiture proceedings or from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund or the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund, as a participating agency, as an equitable share from the forfeiture of property in investigations in which the Office of Inspector General participates, or through the granting of a Petition for Remission or Mitigation, shall be deposited to the credit of this account for law enforcement activities authorized under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to remain available until expended.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Surface Transportation Board, including services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, $31,250,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $1,250,000 from fees established by the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and used for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015, to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at no more than $30,000,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 180. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department of Transportation shall be available for maintenance and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of liability insurance for motor vehicles operating in foreign countries on official department business; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 181. Appropriations contained in this Act for the Department of Transportation shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for an Executive Level IV.

SEC. 182. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 110 political and Presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary detail outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 183. (a) No recipient of funds made available in this Act shall disseminate personal information (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(3)) obtained by a State department of motor vehicles in connection with a motor vehicle record as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(1), except as provided in 18 U.S.C. 2721 for a use permitted under 18 U.S.C. 2721.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold funds provided in this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with this provision.

SEC. 184. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Railroad Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration's ''Federal-Aid Highways'' account, the Federal Transit Administration's ''Technical Assistance and Training'' account, and to the Federal Railroad Administration's ''Safety and Operations'' account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 185. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or grant unless the Secretary of Transportation notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project competitively selected to receive a discretionary grant award, any discretionary grant award, letter of intent, loan commitment, loan guarantee commitment, line of credit commitment, or full funding grant agreement is announced by the department or its modal administrations from:

(1) any discretionary grant or federal credit program of the Federal Highway Administration including the emergency relief program;

(2) the airport improvement program of the Federal Aviation Administration;

(3) any program of the Federal Railroad Administration;

(4) any program of the Federal Transit Administration other than the formula grants and fixed guideway modernization programs;

(5) any program of the Maritime Administration; or

(6) any funding provided under the headings ''National Infrastructure Investments'' in this Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary gives concurrent notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for any ''quick release'' of funds from the emergency relief program: *Provided further*, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department of Transportation from travel management centers, charge card programs, the subleasing of building space, and miscellaneous sources are to be credited to

appropriations of the Department of Transportation and allocated to elements of the Department of Transportation using fair and equitable criteria and such funds shall be available until expended.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this or any other Act that the Secretary determines represent improper payments by the Department of Transportation to a third-party contractor under a financial assistance award, which are recovered pursuant to law, shall be available—

(1) to reimburse the actual expenses incurred by the Department of Transportation in recovering improper payments; and

(2) to pay contractors for services provided in recovering improper payments or contractor support in the implementation of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002: *Provided*, That amounts in excess of that required for paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(A) shall be credited to and merged with the appropriation from which the improper payments were made, and shall be available for the purposes and period for which such appropriations are available: *Provided further*, That where specific project or accounting information associated with the improper payment or payments is not readily available, the Secretary may credit an appropriate account, which shall be available for the purposes and period associated with the account so credited; or

(B) if no such appropriation remains available, shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts: *Provided further*, That prior to the transfer of any such recovery to an appropriations account, the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the amount and reasons for such transfer: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term ''improper payments'' has the same meaning as that provided in section 2(d)(2) of Public Law 107–300.

SEC. 188. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any funds provided in or limited by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, transmission of said reprogramming notice shall be provided solely to the Committees on Appropriations, and said reprogramming action shall be approved or denied solely by the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That the Secretary may provide notice to other congressional committees of the action of the Committees on Appropriations on such reprogramming but not sooner than 30 days following the date on which the reprogramming action has been approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 189. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Surface Transportation Board of the Department of Transportation to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized for district court civil suit filing fees under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 190. Funds appropriated in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are purchased to provide a direct benefit to the applicable modal administration or administrations.

SEC. 191. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits authorized under section 7905 of title 5, United States Code, including distribution of transit benefits by various paper and electronic media.

SEC. 192. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used by the Surface Transportation Board to take any actions with respect to the construction of a high speed rail project in California unless the Board has jurisdiction over the entire project and the permit is or was issued by the Board with respect to the project in its entirety.

SEC. 193. None of the funds limited or otherwise made available by this Act to carry out chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, may be used to subsidize a credit instrument authorized under such chapter that would cause the credit subsidy obligated in fiscal year 2015 to fund projects located in a single State to exceed 33 percent of the total credit subsidy made available by this Act on October 1, 2014 to carry out such chapter.

SEC. 194. None of the funds limited or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an application to renew a Hazardous Materials Safety Program permit for a motor carrier based on that carrier's Hazardous Materials Out-of-Service rate, unless the carrier has the opportunity to submit a written description of corrective actions taken, and other documentation the carrier wishes the Secretary to consider, including submitting a corrective action plan, and the Secretary determines the actions or plan is insufficient to address the safety concerns that resulted in that Hazardous Materials Out-of-Service rate.

SEC. 195. Any unexpended amounts available for obligation under the heading ''Federal Railroad Administration—Safety and Operations'' under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–447) shall be made available for rail safety oversight activities for the transport of energy products: *Provided*, That $10,000,000 of unexpended amounts available for obligation under the heading ''Federal Railroad Administration—Capital Assistance to States—Intercity Passenger Rail Service'' for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 shall be made available for grade crossing safety improvements on rail routes that transport energy products.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2015''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjudicatory Services, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, $14,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $25,000 of the amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, $500,000,000, of which not to exceed $45,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; not to exceed $93,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed $194,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Administration; not to exceed $52,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer; not to exceed $49,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Field Policy and Management; not to exceed $16,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer; not to exceed $2,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity; not to exceed $3,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Strategic Planning and Management; and not to exceed $45,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not otherwise provided for, including purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefore, as authorized by U.S.C. 5901–5902; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support the housing mission area: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide the Committees on Appropriations quarterly written notification regarding the status of pending congressional reports: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide all signed reports required by Congress electronically.

PROGRAM OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Public and Indian Housing, $200,000,000.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Community Planning and Development, $100,000,000.

HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Housing, $370,000,000, of which at least $9,000,000 shall be for the Office of Risk and Regulatory Affairs.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Policy Development and Research, $20,000,000.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, $68,000,000.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, $7,000,000.

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (''the Act'' herein), not otherwise provided for, $15,356,529,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, shall be available on October 1, 2014 (in addition to the $4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2014), and $4,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, shall be available on October 1, 2015: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

(1) $17,693,079,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts (including renewals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act) and including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year

2015 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection, HOPE VI, and Choice Neighborhoods vouchers: *Provided further*, That in determining calendar year 2015 funding allocations under this heading for public housing agencies, including agencies participating in the Moving To Work (MTW) demonstration, the Secretary may take into account the anticipated impact of changes in targeting and utility allowances, on public housing agencies' contract renewal needs: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of unit months under lease which exceeds a public housing agency's authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration, which are instead governed by the terms and conditions of their MTW agreements: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), pro rate each public housing agency's allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual budget by the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2015: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may extend the notification period with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the previous provisos: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may offset public housing agencies' calendar year 2015 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agencies' net restricted assets accounts, including HUD held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year 2014 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, excluding amounts subject to the single fund budget authority provisions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies' calendar year 2015 MTW funding allocation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use any offset referred to in the previous two provisos throughout the calendar year to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal funding allocations: *Provided further*, That up to $75,000,000 shall be available only: (1) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances or from portability under section 8(r) of the Act; (2) for vouchers that were not in use during the 12-month period in order to be available to meet a commitment pursuant to section 8(o)(13) of the Act; (3) for adjustments for costs associated with HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD–VASH) vouchers; (4) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the previous proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary; and (5) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs as a result of participation in the Small Area Fair Market Rent demonstration;

(2) $130,000,000 shall be for section 8 rental assistance for relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to section 18 of the Act, conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8, the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act, relocation of witnesses in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency, enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act, HOPE VI and Choice Neighborhood vouchers, mandatory and voluntary conversions, and tenant protection assistance including replacement and relocation assistance or for project-based assistance to prevent the displacement of unassisted elderly tenants currently residing in section 202 properties financed between 1959 and 1974 that are refinanced pursuant to Public Law 106–569, as amended, or under the authority as provided under this Act: *Provided*, That when a public housing development is submitted for demolition or disposition under section 18 of the Act, the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance when the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may only provide replacement vouchers for units that were occupied within the previous 24 months that cease to be available as assisted housing, subject only to the availability of funds: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this paragraph, $5,000,000 may be available to provide tenant protection assistance, not otherwise provided under this paragraph, to residents residing in low vacancy areas and who may have to pay rents greater than 30 percent of household income, as the result of (1) the maturity of a HUD-insured, HUD-held or section 202 loan that requires the permission of the Secretary prior to loan prepayment; (2) the expiration of a rental assistance contract for which the tenants are not eligible for enhanced voucher or tenant protection assistance under existing law; or (3) the expiration of affordability restrictions accompanying a mortgage or preservation program administered by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such tenant protection assistance made available under the previous proviso may be provided under the authority of section 8(t) or section 8(o)(13) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(t)): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue guidance to implement the previous provisos, including, but not limited to, requirements for defining eligible at-risk households within 120 days of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That any tenant protection voucher made available from amounts under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such voucher shall cease to exist: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, for the purpose under this paragraph, may use unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from amounts appropriated in prior fiscal years under this heading for voucher assistance for nonelderly disabled families and for disaster assistance made available under Public Law 110–329;

(3) $1,350,000,000 shall be for administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program, of which up to $10,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, including fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance, the administration of disaster related vouchers, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That no less than $1,335,000,000 of the amount provided in this paragraph shall be allocated to public housing agencies for the calendar year 2015 funding cycle based on section 8(q) of the Act (and related Appropriation Act provisions) as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–276): *Provided further*, That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to pay the amounts determined under the previous proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the previous proviso, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading from prior fiscal years, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements, and shall be subject to the same uniform percentage decrease as under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be only for activities related to the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities;

(4) $108,450,000 for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: *Provided*, That administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be funded under the same terms and be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under paragraph (3) of this heading;

(5) $75,000,000 for incremental rental voucher assistance for use through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make such funding available, notwithstanding section 204 (competition provision) of this title, to public housing agencies that partner with eligible VA Medical Centers or other entities as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, based on geographical need for such assistance as identified by the

Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, public housing agency administrative performance, and other factors as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for (in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs), any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance: *Provided further*, That assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for homeless veterans upon turn-over; and

(6) The Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

□ 1530

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,535, 652,900)''.

Page 73, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $400,000,000)''.

Page 73, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,769,307,900)''.

Page 76, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,500,000)''.

Page 77, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $13,000,000)''.

Page 78, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

Page 80, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $135,000,000)''.

Page 80, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $133,500,000)''.

Page 82, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,845,000)''.

Page 82, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,500,000)''.

Page 101, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $934,600,000)''.

Page 101, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $40,000,000)''.

Page 102, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $21,000,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,910,252,900)''.

Mr. CHABOT (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reduce section 8 spending across the board by 10 percent, $3 billion, and place the savings in the spending reduction account.

The section 8 voucher program, which was intended to provide temporary assistance for struggling Americans, has become, unfortunately, a way of life for far too many in this country. Many of our communities, like my community, Cincinnati, are struggling to deal with the program's unintended consequences in many instances in many neighborhoods.

As a result, the program is in need of serious reform. For example, to help reduce dependency on the program, we should establish time limits for beneficiaries, except for the elderly or disabled. The payments should not go on basically forever, as they do under current law.

To make certain that section 8 landlords are accountable to local communities, landlords should be required to comply with local laws and ordinances, and not be allowed to hide behind the HUD regulations when faced with complaints about their properties.

To make the program safer for both its recipients and the neighbors of those recipients, we need to ensure that convicted felons and sex offenders are barred from participation in the section 8 program.

If you are able to work, then you should have to work in order to be eligible for section 8 benefits. Until reforms like these have been implemented, spending more tax dollars on the Section 8 voucher program is akin to throwing good money after bad.

Faced with a national debt that exceeds $17 trillion and, in fact, is around $17.5 trillion now, continuing this funding is something we simply cannot afford.

Mr. Chairman, as we look for areas to reduce Federal spending, a broken program like section 8 that rewards government dependency with our tax dollars is a good place to start.

Those other things that I mentioned are things that we have offered in the past and intend to offer in legislation in the future. But relative to this particular amendment, this would just cut the funding by $3 billion, which is approximately 10 percent of the section 8 program.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I think we all know in section 8 there are reforms that are needed. This amendment does nothing to those reforms, and it should be to the authorizing Financial Services Committee to initiate the reform so that, in fact, we can change it, make it work better, and do the right thing for the people in the system. But this is just not the way to approach it.

We have worked in this bill to cut all unnecessary spending in HUD's programs. We provided funds to continue assistance to the 2.2 million families while cutting administrative fees by $150 million to $1.35 billion.

It also would cut the housing assistance for homeless veterans program, which we need to give those veterans the kind of services that they desperately need.

I agree with the gentleman from Ohio that reforms need to be done to the program. This is not the place to do those reforms, nor is he even proposing any reforms to the program, rather than just slashing important programs for people. And I don't want to be the one to have to pick and choose who is going to lose their house, their place to live under this amendment.

So for those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I would oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I also rise in opposition to this amendment.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, recently they have announced that we are slowly still recovering from the Great Recession, and we still have a large number of people who are underemployed or unemployed.

The reality is that the reform that my friend from Ohio would like to bring in section 8 housing will not occur by these cuts, as pointed out by the chairman.

We believe that what this amendment would do is it would evict over 150,000 people from their homes. It would have an effect on the homeless veterans and reduce their assistance.

The reality is today that over half of the residents who live in section 8 are families with children, and so the consequences of this amendment are too dire, and we can't support it, so I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $988,471,000)''.

Page 73, line 15, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $633,471,000)''.

Page 80, line 10, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $355,000,000)''.

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $335,000,000)''.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, we have not even seen the amendment. For that reason, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, two of our central responsibilities as Members of Congress are to support a strong national infrastructure and to ensure that every American has a place to call home. The funding levels provided in this legislation will make it impossible to fulfill either of those responsibilities.

There can be no question that we must put people back to work and bring our crumbling, outdated infrastructure into the 21st century. At the funding levels provided in this bill, few of those goals can be accomplished.

□ 1545

The bill cuts the FTA's Capital Investment Grant Program, more commonly known as New Starts, by $252 million. It includes a $500 million cut to the TIGER grant program, funding it $1.15 billion below the President's request, and it cuts $200 million from Amtrak's capital funding, while providing no funding for high-speed rail.

Beyond simply cutting critical funding, the bill places restrictions on the use of TIGER grants and high-speed rail, and it exempts three States—Wisconsin, Mississippi, and Idaho—from truck size and weight limits on Federal highways.

Congress should not preempt the comprehensive study currently being conducted by USDOT, required as part of MAP–21, the last legislation we enacted on the subject, by enacting piecemeal riders on appropriations bills.

The devastating impacts these cuts will have on our economy will only be exacerbated by the cuts to vital housing programs for hardworking families.

The HOME Investment Partnership Program is funded at its lowest level since its creation in 1992, and the Public Housing Capital Fund falls below its sequestered funding level, adding at least $1 billion to the backlog of capital needs, but perhaps most startling is the failure of this legislation to provide enough funding for every low-income senior and hardworking family to access affordable and secure housing through HUD's tenant-based rental assistance program, or section 8.

My amendment finally provides enough funding for HUD to renew every section 8 voucher, including the 70,000 vouchers lost under sequestration, and to support robust staffing at public housing agencies around the country.

Rental assistance helps 2.1 million very low-income households rent modest homes in the private market at an affordable cost. Households who use Section 8 have incomes well below the Federal poverty line, and nearly every household using a section 8 voucher includes children, seniors, or people with disabilities.

Research consistently demonstrates that this program reduces poverty, housing instability, and homelessness, and helps families live in safe, healthy communities.

Despite the success, only about one in four eligible low-income families receives Federal rental assistance. Long waiting lists remain in nearly every community, even as the number of poor families who pay more than half their monthly income for housing costs has risen 28 percent since 2007. These long wait lists are exacerbated by a lack of administrative funding for public housing agencies.

In the past, Congress consistently provided the necessary funds to ensure that no one receiving a Section 8 voucher loses access to affordable, decent, and stable housing year to year, but sequestration has had a devastating impact on section 8.

With inadequate funding for voucher renewals and extreme cuts to administrative fees, State and local housing agencies assisted an estimated 70,000 fewer families at the end of 2013 compared to a year earlier.

The increased funding that Congress provided through the FY14 budget agreement restored less than half of those vouchers, leaving 40,000 very low-income families with no access to affordable housing. This bill does nothing to help those families.

My amendment will ensure that public housing agencies can renew every current voucher and restore those lost under sequestration. The amendment funds Section 8 voucher renewals at the President's request of $18 billion and provides an additional $320 million to provide vouchers to the 40,000 families who lost access due to Congress' inability to address sequestration.

Of course, this additional funding would go a long way to ensuring that every family who qualifies for rental assistance finds a home. However, at the funding levels for administrative fees in this legislation, it would be impossible for public housing agencies to hire and maintain enough staff to process and renew vouchers.

We cannot continue to undermine our hardworking public housing agencies by failing to provide them enough money to function; yet, once again, this bill woefully underfunds administrative fees for public housing by providing only $1.35 billion, a $150 million reduction from last year's enacted level.

My amendment would finally address the undercutting at public housing agencies by providing an additional $335 million to match the President's request of $1.7 billion for administrative fees.

Mr. Chairman, our first priority must be to ensure that every working family, every senior, and every child has access to a safe, healthy, and affordable home. This amendment will guarantee that no one has to choose between paying their rent and putting food on the table.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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, 113th Congress, which states:

''It shall not be in order to consider an amendment to a general appropriation 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 of the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, we can all agree, I think, that this amendment is necessary.

We are talking about denying tens of thousands of families and seniors access to an efficient, cost-effective program that keeps families together and lowers the government's costs over the long term.

Without this amendment, we will see a spike in homelessness, a spike in medical costs, and a spike in hungry kids.

I understand the point of order. I understand that the rules demand an offset for any funding increase in the bill. I also appreciate the chairman's efforts to support Section 8 and public housing.

But when funding levels are this restrictive across the board, as they are in this bill, it is impossible to offset such drastic underfunding without hurting other people in need. The rules and the drastic underfunding of this bill make it impossible to meet basic human needs.

I hope that, as we go forward, we can find a way to provide these funds so that kids, working families, and seniors are not out on the street, as I guarantee you this bill at this funding level will do.

The CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

The gentleman from Iowa makes a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York 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 Iowa, 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.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we return to page 70, line 16, to consider my amendment that was passed a moment ago.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

Mr. LATHAM. Objection.

The CHAIR. Objection is heard.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, if I had an opportunity to offer my amendment today, an amendment that passed with the support of both parties in last year's T–HUD appropriations bill, I would raise the fact that the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in many communities across the country, has taken a step back from their mission.

They have a very important mission when it comes to homelessness among veterans, ensuring affordable housing partnerships, and combating the foreclosure crisis.

Still, last year, we were disserved by the leadership at the Department when they closed a number of field offices all across the country, including the field office in the Tampa Bay area, that I represent, and in the Orlando area.

Now, Florida has a population of almost 20 million people. We have 1.5 million veterans, and it is estimated that about 8,000 of them are homeless. We have 47,000 people in Florida that are battling homelessness, and our foreclosure rate is still too high. Nearly 9 percent of all Florida homes with mortgages are in some state of foreclosure.

So it was very disturbing last year when HUD pulled back on the ground, closed community offices in Tampa and Orlando. In fact, they shut down 16 field offices. The problem was that they didn't consult Congress, as they were supposed to. They came, they talked with us, but they didn't really allow us any adequate input.

I encourage the leaders, like the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR), who has been on this issue, to continue this dialogue with the Department and the U.S. Senate in conference.

My amendment would have cut the executive office budget of HUD here in Washington, D.C., by $3.5 million and, instead, devoted those funds back to our local communities to fight homelessness among veterans, foreclosures, and the other challenges we face.

The shift of these dollars out of D.C. to our local communities would have sent a very strong message. You know, those fields offices, especially the one I had in the Tampa Bay area, was a critical access point for my neighbors and for many of the community's nonprofits.

We are being hurt by their decision, and all my amendment would have done—and I hope this dialogue will continue—is ensure that the Department remains focused on backing up what they said that they would do to ensure that our local communities would not be hurt by taking away people on the ground that interact on an everyday basis with the people we represent.

So at this time, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) for his involvement in this issue and urge everyone involved in the negotiations to emphasize the importance of having HUD focused on their mission on the ground in our neighborhoods, in our cities and towns and not on the bureaucracy here in Washington, D.C.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we go back to page 70 for the purpose of offering an amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

Mr. LATHAM. There is an objection.

The CHAIR. Objection is heard.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, if I would have been able to offer my amendment today, it would have clarified an existing Federal highway priority corridor between Raleigh, North Carolina, and Norfolk, Virginia.

It would have also codified the corridor as a future interstate highway. This designation, Mr. Chairman, could eventually improve transportation and commerce and economic development in North Carolina and Virginia.

Eastern North Carolina, Mr. Chairman, remains one of the poorest areas in the country, despite the economic resurgence many other areas of the country have seen. My amendment, if it had been made in order, would enable future construction between Raleigh and Norfolk to build on an existing corridor where half of the route already meets Federal freeway standards.

Improving on existing infrastructure can save taxpayer money and help expedite the project's completion.

Mr. Chairman, I urge colleagues in future debates to consider this request.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. 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. BROUN of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. HOLDING, 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. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 1600

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

URGING AFGHANISTAN TO PURSUE A TRANSPARENT, CREDIBLE, AND INCLUSIVE RUN-OFF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 600) urging the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014, while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 600

Whereas on April 5, 2014, the Government of Afghanistan held the first round of the presidential election in which voter participation was 60 percent;

Whereas on May 15, 2014, Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC) certified the results, and announced that a run-off election would be held on June 14, 2014, because no candidate received more than 50 percent of the votes;

Whereas on May 14, 2014, the IEC invalidated votes from 331 polling stations and removed them from the final tabulation, based on Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) decisions;

Whereas there have been widespread reports of voter and election monitor intimidation, including the killing of members of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) during an attack at the Serena Hotel in Kabul on March 20, 2014, as well as attempts to bribe members of the IEC, the ECC, and other election monitoring organizations;

Whereas investigations by the ECC, and its coordination with the IEC, have not been conducted in a transparent manner;

Whereas 17 members of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) were killed in Taliban and insurgent attacks while supporting the April 5, 2014, elections;

Whereas the United States and Afghanistan signed the Enduring Strategic Partnership Agreement to strengthen Afghan sovereignty, stability, and prosperity, while emphasizing a shared goal to defeat al-Qaeda and its terrorist affiliates;

Whereas United States and coalition armed forces have greatly contributed to the stability and security of Afghanistan at a considerable personal sacrifice; and

Whereas the United States has contributed more than $100,000,000 toward the 2014 Afghan presidential election: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Government of Afghanistan for holding a successful first round of the presidential election and expresses strong support for a credible, inclusive, and transparent second round on June 14, 2014;

(2) supports the mandate of Afghan electoral bodies such as the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) to administer, adjudicate, and manage polls, as well

as oversee logistical and technical preparations in a transparent, fair, and credible manner to prevent fraud and misconduct;

(3) encourages the Government of Afghanistan to implement measures that will increase voter participation, particularly among the Afghan female population;

(4) recognizes the determination of the Afghan people to exercise their right to vote and determine their country's destiny;

(5) urges the Government of Afghanistan to take steps to assure that fraudulent electoral activities do not take place during the runoff;

(6) urges the IEC to adopt measures to better mitigate fraud, improve electoral transparency of the polling and counting process, and communicate these measures clearly and consistently to the people of Afghanistan;

(7) urges close and continuing communication between the IEC and the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) to identify and provide security for vulnerable areas of the country during the election period;

(8) encourages all elements of Afghan society to refrain from fomenting violence and other disturbances in voting areas;

(9) urges the ANSF to make every necessary effort to ensure the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers;

(10) expresses its support for the full participation of Afghan civil society in the election process;

(11) recognizes that a democratically-elected government that reflects the will of the Afghan people and is committed to combating terrorism would promote the long-term stability and security interests of Afghanistan, its neighbors, and its partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force, including the United States; and

(12) recognizes the sacrifices of United States and coalition armed forces that have contributed, and will continue to contribute, to the security and stability of Afghanistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, the Afghan people will exercise their right to vote and their right to determine their country's future, choosing between two candidates to complete the first democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan's long, violent history.

This vote holds out the promise of helping to solidify the achievements of U.S. international forces there. That is why this bipartisan resolution, which I am pleased to cosponsor, urges the Government of Afghanistan to pursue a secure, transparent, and credible runoff Presidential election.

Make no mistake—the Taliban would love nothing more than to disrupt this democratic process and see the Government of Afghanistan fail. During the past month, Taliban fighters have ramped up their attacks, of course, while threatening polling centers and election officials.

Indeed, on Friday, the Taliban attempted to assassinate the leading Afghan Presidential candidate, Abdul Abdullah, in a suicide car bombing. After emerging unharmed, Abdullah said:

> Threats can't stop us and our people. We are still dedicated to what we have promised for a better future.

For those of you who followed his campaign later that day, he was undeterred and went from event to event.

Well, this election offers the chance for Afghanistan to embark on that better future by taking the final steps towards a legitimate transition of power.

Just over 2 months ago, Afghans overwhelmingly flocked to the polls to vote in Presidential and in provisional elections. More than 7 million Afghan citizens cast a blot during the first round of voting. To put that in perspective, for those of you who remember, that was about 4.5 million who voted in 2009. This dwarfed that number—7 million.

That first round election also saw a prominent female politician selected as a running mate, a choice that likely helped inspire some 2.5 million Afghan women to come out to the polls and to vote. While she and her running mate came in third, no aspiring leader can afford to ignore the interests of half of Afghanistan's population, who want better education, health, and other basic services.

Although the April elections were a significant improvement over 2009, there is plenty of room for progress. Numerous electoral complaints led to the invalidation of votes, and in May, Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission fired poll workers, some of whom were accused of voter fraud. This is exactly why it is so critical for the Government of Afghanistan to take these proactive steps to champion a secure and fair runoff election. A successful election will help emphasize Afghanistan's commitment to good governance, and it will provide much-needed legitimacy to the incoming President of that country.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has been heavily involved in Afghanistan for years. We have made great sacrifice. While the Obama administration has U.S. involvement in Afghanistan coming to a close, U.S. interest in a stable and secure Afghanistan will continue. The United States maintains an enduring national security interest in an Afghanistan that prevents itself from becoming a safe haven for terrorism. That goal becomes much harder if the Taliban is rejuvenated and successful in wrecking this weekend's elected government.

But one way we can demonstrate our commitment to Afghanistan's success is by supporting the country's first-ever democratic transition of executive power. This resolution does exactly that, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 600, to extend my gratitude to Chairman ROYCE, and to urge my colleagues' support as well.

This Saturday, the people of Afghanistan will travel to the polls to elect a new President in a runoff election. The victorious candidate will replace Hamid Karzai, who has led Afghanistan since 2001.

House Resolution 600 recognizes this important moment in history and urges the Government of Afghanistan to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive runoff Presidential election while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers.

So far, the U.S. Government has contributed more than $100 million toward the 2014 Afghanistan election, and numerous United States and coalition soldiers have sacrificed their lives in efforts to secure Afghanistan and prepare it for this crucial moment of peaceful transition of power.

I think that it is important to recognize these facts, and that is part of what House Resolution 600 seeks to do.

On April 5, the Government of Afghanistan held the first round of a Presidential election, in which almost 60 percent of eligible voters participated. Now, according to the Afghan Constitution, because no single candidate claimed more than 50 percent of the vote, a runoff election between the top two candidates will be held.

The first round of elections were promising in terms of increased voter turnout, no civilian deaths in attacks on election day, and a quick certification of results in order to set the stage for a runoff election, but more work remains to be done.

Votes from 331 polling stations were invalidated and removed from the final tabulations. Reports of voter and election monitor intimidation persist. Reports of attempts to bribe election monitors have occurred. Reports of SMS and texting capabilities being suspended on election day exist. Concerns remain about the lack of transparency and activities of the Afghan Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission. Seventeen members of the Afghan National Security Forces were killed in attacks on election day. And female voter participation and protection remains at a level below what Afghan males enjoy.

In light of these issues, House Resolution 600 commends the Government of Afghanistan for holding the first round of elections and scheduling a second; expresses support for a credible, inclusive, and transparent runoff election; supports the mandate of Afghan electoral bodies to prevent voter fraud

and misconduct; encourages the Government of Afghanistan to implement measures that will increase voter participation, particularly among Afghan females; and urges the security force to continue to provide protection to vulnerable areas of the country during the election period, as well as recognizing the sacrifices of those forces that have contributed and will continue to contribute to the security and stability of Afghanistan.

This is an exciting time for Afghanistan, Mr. Speaker, and this election is an important one. American forces have been in Afghanistan now for a decade, and most of them are now coming home. This election will be crucial in proving to the world that Afghanistan is ready again to chart its own course and to provide its own security.

I wish the Afghan people well in this endeavor, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan resolution to urge the Government of Afghanistan to ensure a transparent process in its June 14 runoff Presidential election.

I want to commend my former Foreign Affairs Committee colleague, Mr. GRAYSON, for bringing this measure forward, and also Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this important issue.

It makes clear that the United States supports the Afghan people in their pursuit to form an effective government through credible, violence-free elections.

Afghanistan certainly faces major challenges, but this transition is an opportunity for Afghanistan to build upon the progress it has made since 2001. Under the Taliban, women were banned from social, political, and educational participation. Now, more than one-quarter of the country's parliament is female, and more than one-third of the voters in the first round of elections were women.

There has been other strong progress, both big and small. Infant mortality has declined, the media is more accessible, the literacy rates have increased from the single digits, and there are even substantially more paved roads. Don't get me wrong. It is not all cotton candy and rainbows. To be certain, Afghanistan still has a long road ahead to achieve a democratic future, but this election is a critical step in the right direction.

It is my hope that the Government of Afghanistan recognizes the sacrifices that have been made to get to this point and will turn a page to ensure a peaceful transition of power.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. GRAYSON. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and will just take a moment and recognize the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) for his initiative in introducing this bill and for his commitment to the success of democratic governance in Afghanistan.

The international community has previously pledged aid support to Afghanistan on the condition that the country hold transparent, credible, and inclusive elections this year and next year. This resolution encourages the Government of Afghanistan to uphold that commitment when Afghans finally select a successor to President Karzai on June 14.

This new government will have a chance to start anew, tackling corruption—the kind of corruption that has jeopardized the success of international aid efforts there. This resolution urges the Government of Afghanistan to lessen the risk of fraud, to improve electoral transparency, enhance security efforts, and increase voter participation during the upcoming runoff.

Importantly, it has also been the case that we need to recognize the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces, and this resolution does that. It recognizes those in our Armed Forces and underscores that this election will contribute to the security and stability interests of both Afghanistan and the United States.

This is an historic opportunity to bolster the Afghan-led electoral process, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution, which demonstrates our commitment to a legitimate and democratic transition to power in Afghanistan.

Also, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) has reminded me that, as Afghanistan walks down this road, it might behoove the new government there to look at local elections as part of the solution, rather than to have people perennially appointed from the center of the country, empower people locally to elect their own local mayors, their own local leaders.

They will certainly have that opportunity next year in the parliamentary elections.

With that said, again, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) for this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 600, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4412) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4412

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2014.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

Sec. 201. Space exploration policy.
Sec. 202. Stepping stone approach to exploration.
Sec. 203. Space Launch System.
Sec. 204. Orion crew capsule.
Sec. 205. Space radiation.
Sec. 206. Planetary protection for human exploration missions.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

Sec. 211. International Space Station.
Sec. 212. Barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the ISS's National Laboratory by commercial companies.
Sec. 213. Utilization of International Space Station for science missions.
Sec. 214. International Space Station cargo resupply services lessons learned.
Sec. 215. Commercial crew program.
Sec. 216. Space communications.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

Sec. 301. Science portfolio.
Sec. 302. Radioisotope power systems.
Sec. 303. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose.
Sec. 304. University class science missions.
Sec. 305. Assessment of science mission extensions.

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

Sec. 311. Decadal cadence.
Sec. 312. Extrasolar planet exploration strategy.
Sec. 313. James Webb Space Telescope.
Sec. 314. National Reconnaissance Office telescope donation.
Sec. 315. Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.
Sec. 316. Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

Sec. 321. Decadal cadence.
Sec. 322. Near-Earth objects.
Sec. 323. Near-Earth objects public-private partnerships.
Sec. 324. Research on near-earth object tsunami effects.
Sec. 325. Astrobiology strategy.
Sec. 326. Astrobiology public-private partnerships.
Sec. 327. Assessment of Mars architecture.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics

Sec. 331. Decadal cadence.
Sec. 332. Review of space weather.

Subtitle E—Earth Science

Sec. 341. Goal.
Sec. 342. Decadal cadence.

Sec. 343. Venture class missions.
Sec. 344. Assessment.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

Sec. 401. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 402. Aeronautics research goals.
Sec. 403. Unmanned aerial systems research and development.
Sec. 404. Research program on composite materials used in aeronautics.
Sec. 405. Hypersonic research.
Sec. 406. Supersonic research.
Sec. 407. Research on NextGen airspace management concepts and tools.
Sec. 408. Rotorcraft research.
Sec. 409. Transformative aeronautics research.
Sec. 410. Study of United States leadership in aeronautics research.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 501. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 502. Space Technology Program.
Sec. 503. Utilization of the International Space Station for technology demonstrations.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

Sec. 601. Education.
Sec. 602. Independent review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.
Sec. 603. Sense of Congress.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Asteroid Retrieval Mission.
Sec. 702. Termination liability sense of Congress.
Sec. 703. Baseline and cost controls.
Sec. 704. Project and program reserves.
Sec. 705. Independent reviews.
Sec. 706. Commercial technology transfer program.
Sec. 707. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council.
Sec. 708. Cost estimation.
Sec. 709. Avoiding organizational conflicts of interest in major Administration acquisition programs.
Sec. 710. Facilities and infrastructure.
Sec. 711. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.
Sec. 712. Space Act Agreements.
Sec. 713. Human spaceflight accident investigations.
Sec. 714. Fullest commercial use of space.
Sec. 715. Orbital debris.
Sec. 716. Review of orbital debris removal concepts.
Sec. 717. Use of operational commercial suborbital vehicles for research, development, and education.
Sec. 718. Fundamental space life and physical sciences research.
Sec. 719. Restoring commitment to engineering research.
Sec. 720. Liquid rocket engine development program.
Sec. 721 Remote satellite servicing demonstrations.
Sec. 722. Information technology governance.
Sec. 723. Strengthening Administration security.
Sec. 724. Prohibition on use of funds for contractors that have committed fraud or other crimes.
Sec. 725. Protection of Apollo landing sites.
Sec. 726. Astronaut occupational healthcare.
Sec. 727. Sense of Congress on access to observational data sets.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) ORION CREW CAPSULE.—The term ''Orion crew capsule'' means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(4) SPACE ACT AGREEMENT.—The term ''Space Act Agreement'' means an agreement created under the authority to enter into ''other transactions'' under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code.

(5) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term ''Space Launch System'' means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2014.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2014 $17,646,500,000 as follows:

(1) For Space Exploration, $4,113,200,000, of which—

(A) $1,918,200,000 shall be for the Space Launch System, of which $318,200,000 shall be for Exploration Ground Systems;

(B) $1,197,000,000 shall be for the Orion crew capsule;

(C) $302,000,000 shall be for Exploration Research and Development; and

(D) $696,000,000 shall be for Commercial Crew Development activities.

(2) For Space Operations, $3,778,000,000, of which $2,984,100,000 shall be for the International Space Station Program.

(3) For Science, $5,151,200,000, of which—

(A) $1,826,000,000 shall be for Earth Science;

(B) $1,345,000,000 shall be for Planetary Science, of which $30,000,000 shall be for the Astrobiology Institute;

(C) $668,000,000 shall be for Astrophysics;

(D) $658,200,000 shall be for the James Webb Space Telescope; and

(E) $654,000,000 shall be for Heliophysics.

(4) For Aeronautics, $566,000,000.

(5) For Space Technology, $576,000,000.

(6) For Education, $116,600,000.

(7) For Cross-Agency Support, $2,793,000,000.

(8) For Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, $515,000,000.

(9) For Inspector General, $37,500,000.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

SEC. 201. SPACE EXPLORATION POLICY.

(a) POLICY.—Human exploration deeper into the solar system shall be a core mission of the Administration. It is the policy of the United States that the goal of the Administration's exploration program shall be to successfully conduct a crewed mission to the surface of Mars to begin human exploration of that planet. The use of the surface of the Moon, cis-lunar space, near-Earth asteroids, Lagrangian points, and Martian moons may be pursued provided they are properly incorporated into the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.—Section 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ORION CREW CAPSULE.—The term 'Orion crew capsule' means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

''(2) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term 'Space Launch System' means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).''.

(c) KEY OBJECTIVES.—Section 202(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) to accelerate the development of capabilities to enable a human exploration mission to the surface of Mars and beyond through the prioritization of those technologies and capabilities best suited for such a mission in accordance with the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.''.

(d) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—Section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—NASA may not obtain non-United States human space flight capabilities unless no domestic commercial or public-private partnership provider that the Administrator has determined to meet safety and affordability requirements established by NASA for the transport of its astronauts is available to provide such capabilities.

''(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'domestic commercial provider' means a person providing space transportation services or other space-related activities, the majority control of which is held by persons other than a Federal, State, local, or foreign government, foreign company, or foreign national.''.

(e) REPEAL OF SPACE SHUTTLE CAPABILITY ASSURANCE.—Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18313) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)''; and

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

SEC. 202. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to maximize the cost effectiveness of the long-term space exploration and utilization activities of the United States, the Administrator shall direct the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, or its successor division, to develop a Human Exploration Roadmap to define the specific capabilities and technologies necessary to extend human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions required to demonstrate such capabilities and technologies.

''(b) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.—The President should invite the United States partners in the International Space Station program and other nations, as appropriate, to participate in an international initiative under the leadership of the United States to

achieve the goal of successfully conducting a crewed mission to the surface of Mars.

''(c) ROADMAP REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the Human Exploration Roadmap, the Administrator shall—

''(1) include the specific set of capabilities and technologies that contribute to extending human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions necessary to demonstrate the proficiency of these capabilities and technologies with an emphasis on using or not using the International Space Station, lunar landings, cislunar space, trans-lunar space, Lagrangian points, and the natural satellites of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, as testbeds, as necessary, and shall include the most appropriate process for developing such capabilities and technologies;

''(2) include information on the phasing of planned intermediate destinations, Mars mission risk areas and potential risk mitigation approaches, technology requirements and phasing of required technology development activities, the management strategy to be followed, related International Space Station activities, and planned international collaborative activities, potential commercial contributions, and other activities relevant to the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014;

''(3) describe those technologies already under development across the Federal Government or by nongovernment entities which meet or exceed the needs described in paragraph (1);

''(4) provide a specific process for the evolution of the capabilities of the fully integrated Orion crew capsule with the Space Launch System and how these systems demonstrate the capabilities and technologies described in paragraph (1);

''(5) provide a description of the capabilities and technologies that need to be demonstrated or research data that could be gained through the utilization of the International Space Station and the status of the development of such capabilities and technologies;

''(6) describe a framework for international cooperation in the development of all technologies and capabilities required in this section, as well as an assessment of the risks posed by relying on international partners for capabilities and technologies on the critical path of development;

''(7) describe a process for utilizing nongovernmental entities for future human exploration beyond lunar landings and cislunar space and specify what, if any, synergy could be gained from—

''(A) partnerships using Space Act Agreements (as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014); or

''(B) other acquisition instruments;

''(8) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an addendum from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council, and an addendum from the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, each with a statement of review of the Human Exploration Roadmap that shall include—

''(A) subjects of agreement;

''(B) areas of concern; and

''(C) recommendations; and

''(9) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an examination of the benefits of utilizing current Administration launch facilities for trans-lunar missions.

''(d) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall update such Human Exploration Roadmap as needed but no less frequently than every 2 years and include it in the budget for that fiscal year transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, and describe—

''(1) the achievements and goals reached in the process of developing such capabilities and technologies during the 2-year period prior to the submission of the update to Congress; and

''(2) the expected goals and achievements in the following 2-year period.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'Orion crew capsule' and 'Space Launch System' have the meanings given such terms in section 20302.''.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a copy of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall transmit a copy of each updated Human Exploration Roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 7 days after such Human Exploration Roadmap is updated.

SEC. 203. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Space Launch System is the most practical approach to reaching the Moon, Mars, and beyond, and Congress reaffirms the policy and minimum capability requirements for the Space Launch System contained in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322);

(2) the primary goal for the design of the fully integrated Space Launch System, including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-Earth orbit, is to safely carry a total payload to enable human space exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond over the course of the next century as required in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)); and

(3) In order to promote safety and reduce programmatic risk, the Administrator shall budget for and undertake a robust ground test and uncrewed and crewed flight test and demonstration program for the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule and shall budget for an operational flight rate sufficient to maintain safety and operational readiness.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President's annual budget requests for the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule development, test, and operational phases should strive to accurately reflect the resource requirements of each of those phases, consistent with the policy established in section 201(a) of this Act.

(c) IN GENERAL.—Given the critical importance of a heavy-lift launch vehicle and crewed spacecraft to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of this Act, as well as the accomplishment of intermediate exploration milestones and the provision of a backup capability to transfer crew and cargo to the International Space Station, the Administrator shall make the expeditious development, test, and achievement of operational readiness of the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule the highest priority of the exploration program.

(d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Administration's acquisition of ground systems in support of the Space Launch System. The report shall assess the extent to which ground systems acquired in support of the Space Launch System are focused on the direct support of the Space Launch System and shall identify any ground support projects or activities that the Administration is undertaking that do not solely or primarily support the Space Launch System.

(e) UTILIZATION REPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall prepare a report that addresses the effort and budget required to enable and utilize a cargo variant of the 130-ton Space Launch System configuration described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)). This report shall also include consideration of the technical requirements of the scientific and national security communities related to such Space Launch System and shall directly assess the utility and estimated cost savings obtained by using such Space Launch System for national security and space science missions. The Administrator shall transmit such report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) NAMING COMPETITION.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and concluding not later than 1 year after such date of enactment, the Administrator shall conduct a well-publicized competition among students in elementary and secondary schools to name the elements of the Administration's exploration program, including—

(1) a name for the deep space human exploration program as a whole, which includes the Space Launch System, the Orion crew capsule, and future missions; and

(2) a name for the Space Launch System.

(g) ADVANCED BOOSTER COMPETITION.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Associate Administrator of the Administration shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the estimated total development cost of an advanced booster for the Space Launch System;

(B) details any reductions or increases to the development cost of the Space Launch System which may result from conducting a competition for an advanced booster; and

(C) outlines any potential schedule delay to the Space Launch System 2017 Exploration Mission–1 launch as a result of increased costs associated with conducting a competition for an advanced booster.

(2) COMPETITION.—If the Associate Administrator reports reductions pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), and no adverse schedule impact pursuant to paragraph (1)(C), then the Administration shall conduct a full and open competition for an advanced booster for the Space Launch System to meet the requirements described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)), to begin as soon as practicable after the development of the upper stage has been initiated.

SEC. 204. ORION CREW CAPSULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Orion crew capsule shall meet the practical needs and the minimum capability requirements described in

section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) detailing those components and systems of the Orion crew capsule that ensure it is in compliance with section 303(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b));

(2) detailing the expected date that the Orion crew capsule will be available to transport crew and cargo to the International Space Station; and

(3) certifying that the requirements of section 303(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b)(3)) will be met by the Administration.

SEC. 205. SPACE RADIATION.

(a) STRATEGY AND PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a space radiation mitigation and management strategy and implementation plan to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201 that includes key research and monitoring requirements, milestones, a timetable, and an estimate of facility and budgetary requirements.

(2) COORDINATION.—The strategy shall include a mechanism for coordinating Administration research, technology, facilities, engineering, operations, and other functions required to support the strategy and plan.

(3) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategy and plan to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) SPACE RADIATION RESEARCH FACILITIES.—The Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall assess the national capabilities for carrying out critical ground-based research on space radiation biology and shall identify any issues that could affect the ability to carry out that research.

SEC. 206. PLANETARY PROTECTION FOR HUMAN EXPLORATION MISSIONS.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to explore the planetary protection ramifications of potential future missions by astronauts such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars.

(b) SCOPE.—The study shall—

(1) collate and summarize what has been done to date with respect to planetary protection measures to be applied to potential human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(2) identify and document planetary protection concerns associated with potential human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(3) develop a methodology, if possible, for defining and classifying the degree of concern associated with each likely destination;

(4) assess likely methodologies for addressing planetary protection concerns; and

(5) identify areas for future research to reduce current uncertainties.

(c) COMPLETION DATE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

SEC. 211. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The International Space Station is an ideal testbed for future exploration systems development, including long-duration space travel.

(2) The use of the private market to provide cargo and crew transportation services is currently the most expeditious process to restore domestic access to the International Space Station and low-Earth orbit.

(3) Government access to low-Earth orbit is paramount to the continued success of the International Space Station and National Laboratory.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The following is the policy of the United States:

(1) The United States International Space Station program shall have two primary objectives: supporting achievement of the goal established in section 201 of this Act and pursuing a research program that advances knowledge and provides benefits to the Nation. It shall continue to be the policy of the United States to, in consultation with its international partners in the International Space Station program, support full and complete utilization of the International Space Station.

(2) The International Space Station shall be utilized to the maximum extent practicable for the development of capabilities and technologies needed for the future of human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit and shall be considered in the development of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(3) The Administrator shall, in consultation with the International Space Station partners—

(A) take all necessary measures to support the operation and full utilization of the International Space Station; and

(B) seek to minimize, to the extent practicable, the operating costs of the International Space Station.

(4) Reliance on foreign carriers for crew transfer is unacceptable, and the Nation's human space flight program must acquire the capability to launch United States astronauts on United States rockets from United States soil as soon as is safe and practically possible, whether on Government-owned and operated space transportation systems or privately owned systems that have been certified for flight by the appropriate Federal agencies.

(c) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms—

(1) its commitment to the development of a commercially developed launch and delivery system to the International Space Station for crew missions as expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–155), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–422), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–267);

(2) that the Administration shall make use of United States commercially provided International Space Station crew transfer and crew rescue services to the maximum extent practicable;

(3) that the Orion crew capsule shall provide an alternative means of delivery of crew and cargo to the International Space Station, in the event other vehicles, whether commercial vehicles or partner-supplied vehicles, are unable to perform that function; and

(4) the policy stated in section 501(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351(b)) that the Administration shall pursue international, commercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize International Space Station logistics supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to International Space Station systems sustainability, and offset and minimize United States operations costs relating to the International Space Station.

(d) ASSURED ACCESS TO LOW-EARTH ORBIT.—Section 70501(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) POLICY STATEMENT.—It is the policy of the United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in low-Earth orbit, and beyond, as an essential instrument of national security and the capability to ensure continued United States participation and leadership in the exploration and utilization of space.''.

(e) REPEALS.—

(1) USE OF SPACE SHUTTLE OR ALTERNATIVES.—Chapter 701 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(2) SHUTTLE PRICING POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL AND FOREIGN USERS.—Chapter 703 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(3) SHUTTLE PRIVATIZATION.—Section 50133 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the table of sections for chapter 501 of such title, are repealed.

(f) EXTENSION CRITERIA REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the feasibility of extending the operation of the International Space Station that includes—

(1) criteria for defining the International Space Station as a research success;

(2) any necessary contributions to enabling execution of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) cost estimates for operating the International Space Station to achieve the criteria required under paragraph (1);

(4) cost estimates for extending operations to 2024 and 2030;

(5) an assessment of how the defined criteria under paragraph (1) respond to the National Academies Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space; and

(6) an identification of the actions and cost estimate needed to deorbit the International Space Station once a decision is made to deorbit the laboratory.

(g) STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, academia, other Federal agencies, the International Space Station National Laboratory Advisory Committee, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategic plan for conducting competitive, peer-reviewed research in physical and life sciences and related technologies on the International Space Station through at least 2020.

(2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The strategic plan shall—

(A) be consistent with the priorities and recommendations established by the National Academies in its Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space;

(B) provide a research timeline and identify resource requirements for its implementation, including the facilities and instrumentation necessary for the conduct of such research; and

(C) identify—

(i) criteria for the proposed research, including—

(I) a justification for the research to be carried out in the space microgravity environment;

(II) the use of model systems;

(III) the testing of flight hardware to understand and ensure its functioning in the microgravity environment;

(IV) the use of controls to help distinguish among the direct and indirect effects of microgravity, among other effects of the flight or space environment;

(V) approaches for facilitating data collection, analysis, and interpretation;

(VI) procedures to ensure repetition of experiments, as needed;

(VII) support for timely presentation of the peer-reviewed results of the research;

(VIII) defined metrics for the success of each study; and

(IX) how these activities enable the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(ii) instrumentation required to support the measurements and analysis of the research to be carried out under the strategic plan;

(iii) the capabilities needed to support direct, real-time communications between astronauts working on research experiments onboard the International Space Station and the principal investigator on the ground;

(iv) a process for involving the external user community in research planning, including planning for relevant flight hardware and instrumentation, and for utilization of the International Space Station, free flyers, or other research platforms;

(v) the acquisition strategy the Administration plans to use to acquire any new support capabilities which are not operational on the International Space Station as of the date of enactment of this Act, and the criteria the Administration will apply if less than full and open competition is selected; and

(vi) defined metrics for success of the research plan.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the progress of the organization chosen for the management of the International Space Station National Laboratory as directed in section 504 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354).

(B) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The report shall assess the management, organization, and performance of such organization and shall include a review of the status of each of the 7 required activities listed in section 504(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18354(c)).

SEC. 212. BARRIERS IMPEDING ENHANCED UTILIZATION OF THE ISS'S NATIONAL LABORATORY BY COMMERCIAL COMPANIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory requires a full understanding of the barriers impeding such utilization and actions needed to be taken to remove or mitigate them to the maximum extent practicable; and

(2) doing so will allow the Administration to encourage commercial companies to invest in microgravity research using National Laboratory research facilities.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for an assessment to—

(1) identify barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory;

(2) recommend ways to encourage commercial companies to make greater use of the International Space Station's National Laboratory, including corporate investment in microgravity research; and

(3) identify any legislative changes that may be required.

(c) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment described in subsection (b).

SEC. 213. UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR SCIENCE MISSIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station for Science Mission Directorate missions in low-Earth orbit wherever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

SEC. 214. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CARGO RESUPPLY SERVICES LESSONS LEARNED.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that—

(1) identifies the lessons learned to date from the Commercial Resupply Services contract;

(2) indicates whether changes are needed to the manner in which the Administration procures and manages similar services upon the expiration of the existing Commercial Resupply Services contract; and

(3) identifies any lessons learned from the Commercial Resupply Services contract that should be applied to the procurement and management of commercially provided crew transfer services to and from the International Space Station.

SEC. 215. COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that once developed and certified to meet the Administration's safety and reliability requirements, United States commercially provided crew transportation systems offer the potential of serving as the primary means of transporting American astronauts and international partner astronauts to and from the International Space Station and serving as International Space Station emergency crew rescue vehicles. At the same time, the budgetary assumptions used by the Administration in its planning for the Commercial Crew Program have consistently assumed significantly higher funding levels than have been authorized and appropriated by Congress. It is the sense of Congress that credibility in the Administration's budgetary estimates for the Commercial Crew Program can be enhanced by an independently developed cost estimate. Such credibility in budgetary estimates is an important factor in understanding program risk.

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Administration's Commercial Crew Program shall be to assist the development of at least one crew transportation system to carry Administration astronauts safely, reliably, and affordably to and from the International Space Station and to serve as an emergency crew rescue vehicle as soon as practicable within the funding levels authorized. The Administration shall not use any considerations beyond this objective in the overall acquisition strategy.

(c) SAFETY.—Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, the Administration shall—

(1) ensure that, in its evaluation and selection of contracts for the development of commercial crew transportation capabilities, safety is the highest priority; and

(2) seek to ensure that minimization of the probability of loss of crew shall be an important selection criterion of the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract.

(d) COST MINIMIZATION.—The Administrator shall strive through the competitive selection process to minimize the life cycle cost to the Administration through the planned period of commercially provided crew transportation services.

(e) TRANSPARENCY.—Transparency is the cornerstone of ensuring a safe and reliable commercial crew transportation service to the International Space Station. The Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, ensure that every commercial crew transportation services provider has provided evidence-based support for their costs and schedule.

(f) INDEPENDENT COST AND SCHEDULE ESTIMATE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the Federal Acquisition Regulation-based contract for the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract is awarded, the Administrator shall arrange for the initiation of an Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for—

(A) all activities associated with the development, test, demonstration, and certification of commercial crew transportation systems;

(B) transportation and rescue services required by the Administration for International Space Station operations through calendar year 2020 or later if Administration requirements so dictate; and

(C) the estimated date of operational readiness for the program each assumption listed in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) ASSUMPTIONS.—The Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate shall provide an estimate for each of the following scenarios:

(A) An appropriation of $600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(B) An appropriation of $700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(C) An appropriation of $800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(D) The funding level assumptions over the next 3 fiscal years that are included as part of commercial crew transportation capability contract awards.

(3) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after initiation of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall transmit the results of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under subsection (f), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing 4

distinct implementation strategies based on such Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for the final stages of the commercial crew program.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—These options shall include—

(A) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of $600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(B) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of $700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(C) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of $800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years; and

(D) a strategy that has yet to be considered previously in any budget submission but that the Administration believes could ensure the flight readiness date of 2017 for at least one provider.

(3) INCLUSIONS.—Each strategy shall include the contracting instruments the Administration will employ to acquire the services in each phase of development or acquisition and the number of commercial providers the Administration will include in the program.

SEC. 216. SPACE COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, for updating the Administration's space communications and navigation architecture for low-Earth orbital and deep space operations so that it is capable of meeting the Administration's communications needs over the next 20 years. The plan shall include lifecycle cost estimates, milestones, estimated performance capabilities, and 5-year funding profiles. The plan shall also include an estimate of the amounts of any reimbursements the Administration is likely to receive from other Federal agencies during the expected life of the upgrades described in the plan. At a minimum, the plan shall include a description of the following:

(1) Steps to sustain the existing space communications and navigation network and infrastructure and priorities for how resources will be applied and cost estimates for the maintenance of existing space communications network capabilities.

(2) Upgrades needed to support space communications and navigation network and infrastructure requirements, including cost estimates and schedules and an assessment of the impact on missions if resources are not secured at the level needed.

(3) Projected space communications and navigation network requirements for the next 20 years, including those in support of human space exploration missions.

(4) Projected Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System requirements for the next 20 years, including those in support of other relevant Federal agencies, and cost and schedule estimates to maintain and upgrade the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System to meet projected requirements.

(5) Steps the Administration is taking to meet future space communications requirements after all Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System third-generation communications satellites are operational.

(6) Steps the Administration is taking to mitigate threats to electromagnetic spectrum use.

(b) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

SEC. 301. SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) BALANCED AND ADEQUATELY FUNDED ACTIVITIES.—Section 803 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2832) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 803. OVERALL SCIENCE PORTFOLIO—SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

''Congress reaffirms its sense, expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010, that a balanced and adequately funded set of activities, consisting of research and analysis grants programs, technology development, small, medium, and large space missions, and suborbital research activities, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery.''.

(b) DECADAL SURVEYS.—In proposing the funding of programs and activities for the Administration for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall to the greatest extent practicable follow guidance provided in the current decadal surveys from the National Academies' Space Studies Board.

SEC. 302. RADIOISOTOPE POWER SYSTEMS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that conducting deep space exploration requires radioisotope power systems, and establishing continuity in the production of the material needed to power these systems is paramount to the success of these future deep space missions. It is further the sense of Congress that Federal agencies supporting the Administration through the production of such material should do so in a cost effective manner so as not to impose excessive reimbursement requirements on the Administration.

(b) ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall conduct an analysis of—

(1) the requirements of the Administration for radioisotope power system material that is needed to carry out planned, high priority robotic missions in the solar system and other surface exploration activities beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(2) the risks to missions of the Administration in meeting those requirements, or any additional requirements, due to a lack of adequate radioisotope power system material.

(c) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis conducted under subsection (b) shall—

(1) detail the Administration's current projected mission requirements and associated timeframes for radioisotope power system material;

(2) explain the assumptions used to determine the Administration's requirements for the material, including—

(A) the planned use of advanced thermal conversion technology such as advanced thermocouples and Stirling generators and converters; and

(B) the risks and implications of, and contingencies for, any delays or unanticipated technical challenges affecting or related to the Administration's mission plans for the anticipated use of advanced thermal conversion technology;

(3) assess the risk to the Administration's programs of any potential delays in achieving the schedule and milestones for planned domestic production of radioisotope power system material;

(4) outline a process for meeting any additional Administration requirements for the material;

(5) estimate the incremental costs required to increase the amount of material produced each year, if such an increase is needed to support additional Administration requirements for the material;

(6) detail how the Administration and other Federal agencies will manage, operate, and fund production facilities and the design and development of all radioisotope power systems used by the Administration and other Federal agencies as necessary;

(7) specify the steps the Administration will take, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to preserve the infrastructure and workforce necessary for production of radioisotope power systems and ensure that its reimbursements to the Department of Energy associated with such preservation are equitable and justified; and

(8) detail how the Administration has implemented or rejected the recommendations from the National Research Council's 2009 report titled ''Radioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration''.

(d) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the analysis to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 303. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.

Section 20102(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(10) The direction of the unique competence of the Administration to the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. In carrying out this objective, the Administration may use any practicable ground-based, airborne, or space-based technical means and spectra of electromagnetic radiation.''.

SEC. 304. UNIVERSITY CLASS SCIENCE MISSIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that principal investigator-led small orbital science missions, including CubeSat class, University Explorer (UNEX) class, Small Explorer (SMEX) class, and Venture class, offer valuable opportunities to advance science at low cost, train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and enable participants in the program to acquire skills in systems engineering and systems integration that are critical to maintaining the Nation's leadership in space and to enhancing the United States innovation and competitiveness abroad.

(b) REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR-LED SMALL ORBITAL SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator shall conduct a review of the science missions described in subsection (a). The review shall include—

(1) the status, capability, and availability of existing small orbital science mission programs and the extent to which each program enables the participation of university scientists and students;

(2) the opportunities such mission programs provide for scientific research;

(3) the opportunities such mission programs provide for training and education, including scientific and engineering workforce development, including for the Administration's scientific and engineering workforce; and

(4) the extent to which commercial applications such as hosted payloads, free flyers, and data buys could provide measurable benefits for such mission programs, while preserving the principle of independent peer review as the basis for mission selection.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the

House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the review required under subsection (b) and on recommendations to enhance principal investigator-led small orbital science missions conducted by the Administration in accordance with the results of the review required by subsection (b).

SEC. 305. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.

Section 30504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 30504. Assessment of science mission extensions

''(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out biennial reviews within each of the Science divisions to assess the cost and benefits of extending the date of the termination of data collection for those missions that exceed their planned missions' lifetime. The assessment shall take into consideration how extending missions impacts the start of future missions.

''(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF INSTRUMENTS ON MISSIONS.—When deciding whether to extend a mission that has an operational component, the Administrator shall consult with any affected Federal agency and shall take into account the potential benefits of instruments on missions that are beyond their planned mission lifetime.

''(c) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, at the same time as the submission to Congress of the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year, a report detailing any assessment required by subsection (a) that was carried out during the previous year.''.

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

SEC. 311. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small astrophysics missions.

SEC. 312. EXTRASOLAR PLANET EXPLORATION STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for the study and exploration of extrasolar planets, including the use of the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, the James Webb Space Telescope, a potential Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, or any other telescope, spacecraft, or instrument as appropriate. Such strategy shall—

(1) outline key scientific questions;

(2) identify the most promising research in the field;

(3) indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the key extrasolar planet research goals;

(4) identify opportunities for coordination with international partners, commercial partners, and other not-for-profit partners; and

(5) make recommendations on the above as appropriate.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy to—

(1) inform roadmaps, strategic plans, and other activities of the Administration as they relate to extrasolar planet research and exploration; and

(2) provide a foundation for future activities and initiatives.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 313. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved, and advance the search for the origins of the universe;

(2) the James Webb Space Telescope will enable American scientists to maintain their leadership in astrophysics and other disciplines;

(3) the James Webb Space Telescope program is making steady progress towards a launch in 2018;

(4) the on-time and on-budget delivery of the James Webb Space Telescope is a high congressional priority; and

(5) maintaining this progress will require the Administrator to ensure that integrated testing is appropriately timed and sufficiently comprehensive to enable potential issues to be identified and addressed early enough to be handled within the James Webb Space Telescope's development schedule prior to launch.

SEC. 314. NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE TELESCOPE DONATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate outlining the cost of the Administration's potential plan for developing the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope as described in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, including an alternative plan for the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope 2.4, which includes the donated 2.4-meter aperture National Reconnaissance Office telescope. Due to the budget constraints on the Administration's science programs, this report shall include—

(1) an assessment of cost efficient approaches to develop the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope;

(2) a comparison to the development of mission concepts that exclude the utilization of the donated asset;

(3) an assessment of how the Administration's existing science missions will be affected by the utilization of the donated asset described in this section; and

(4) a description of the cost associated with storing and maintaining the donated asset.

SEC. 315. WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, to the extent practicable, should make progress on the technologies and capabilities needed to position the Administration to meet the objectives of the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, as outlined in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, in a way that maximizes the scientific productivity of meeting those objectives for the resources invested. It is further the sense of Congress that the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that will transform our understanding of the universe.

(b) CONTINUITY OF DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that the concept definition and pre-formulation activities of a Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission continue while the James Webb Space Telescope is being completed.

SEC. 316. STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMY.

The Administrator shall not use any funding appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2014 for the shutdown of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy or for the preparation therefor.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

SEC. 321. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the greatest extent practicable that the Administration carries out a balanced set of planetary science programs in accordance with the priorities established in the most recent decadal survey for planetary science. Such programs shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a Discovery-class mission at least once every 24 months;

(2) a New Frontiers-class mission at least once every 60 months; and

(3) at least one Flagship-class mission per decadal survey period, including a Europa mission with a goal of launching by 2021.

SEC. 322. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and credible threat to humankind, as many scientists believe that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's species, including the dinosaurs, approximately 65,000,000 years ago.

(2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in the future.

(3) Several such near-Earth objects have only been discovered within days of the objects' closest approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such large objects indicate that many large near-Earth objects remain to be discovered.

(4) The efforts undertaken by the Administration for detecting and characterizing the hazards of near-Earth objects should continue to seek to fully determine the threat posed by such objects to cause widespread destruction and loss of life.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''near-Earth object'' means an asteroid or comet with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 Astronomical Units from the Sun.

(c) NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.—The Administrator shall continue to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the physical characteristics of near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter in order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects to the Earth, pursuant to the George E. Brown, Jr. Near-Earth Object Survey Act (42 U.S.C. 16691). It shall be the goal of the Survey program to achieve 90 percent completion of its near-Earth object catalogue (based on statistically predicted populations of near-Earth objects) by 2020.

(d) WARNING AND MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.—Congress reaffirms the policy set forth in section 20102(g) of title 51, United States Code (relating to detecting, tracking, cataloguing, and characterizing asteroids and comets).

(e) PROGRAM REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, an initial report that provides—

(1) recommendations for carrying out the Survey program and an associated proposed budget;

(2) analysis of possible options that the Administration could employ to divert an object on a likely collision course with Earth; and

(3) a description of the status of efforts to coordinate and cooperate with other countries to discover hazardous asteroids and comets, plan a mitigation strategy, and implement that strategy in the event of the discovery of an object on a likely collision course with Earth.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Subsequent to the initial report the Administrator shall annually transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that provides—

(1) a summary of all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act, including the progress toward achieving 90 percent completion of the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) a summary of expenditures for all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) STUDY.—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out a technical and scientific assessment of the capabilities and resources to—

(1) accelerate the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) expand the Administration's Near-Earth Object Program to include the detection, tracking, cataloguing, and characterization of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects less than 140 meters in diameter.

(h) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment carried out under subsection (g) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 323. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to leverage the capabilities of the private sector and philanthropic organizations to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out the Near-Earth Object Survey program in order to meet the goal of the Survey program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to detect, track, catalogue, and categorize near-Earth objects.

SEC. 324. RESEARCH ON NEAR-EARTH OBJECT TSUNAMI EFFECTS.

(a) REPORT ON POTENTIAL TSUNAMI EFFECTS FROM NEAR-EARTH OBJECT IMPACT.—The Administrator, in collaboration with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant agencies, shall prepare a report identifying and describing existing research activities and further research objectives that would increase our understanding of the nature of the effects of potential tsunamis that could occur if a near-Earth object were to impact an ocean of Earth.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the report required and prepared under subsection (a) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 325. ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for astrobiology that would outline key scientific questions, identify the most promising research in the field, and indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. The strategy shall include recommendations for coordination with international partners.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy developed under subsection (a) in planning and funding research and other activities and initiatives in the field of astrobiology.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 326. ASTROBIOLOGY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to study life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe.

SEC. 327. ASSESSMENT OF MARS ARCHITECTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to assess—

(1) the Administration's revised post-2016 Mars exploration architecture and its responsiveness to the strategies, priorities, and guidelines put forward by the National Academies' planetary science decadal surveys and other relevant National Academies Mars-related reports;

(2) the long-term goals of the Administration's Mars Exploration Program and such program's ability to optimize the science return, given the current fiscal posture of the program;

(3) the Mars architecture's relationship to Mars-related activities to be undertaken by agencies and organizations outside of the United States; and

(4) the extent to which the Mars architecture represents a reasonably balanced mission portfolio.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics

SEC. 331. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small heliophysics missions.

SEC. 332. REVIEW OF SPACE WEATHER.

(a) REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to provide a comprehensive study that reviews current and planned ground-based and space-based space weather monitoring requirements and capabilities, identifies gaps, and identifies options for a robust and resilient capability. The study shall inform the process of identifying national needs for future space weather monitoring, forecasts, and mitigation. The National Academies shall give consideration to international and private sector efforts and collaboration that could potentially contribute to national space weather needs. The study shall also review the current state of research capabilities in observing, modeling, and prediction and provide recommendations to ensure future advancement of predictive capability.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report containing the results of the study provided under subsection (a) to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle E—Earth Science

SEC. 341. GOAL.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration is being asked to undertake important Earth science activities in an environment of increasingly constrained fiscal resources, and that any transfer of additional responsibilities to the Administration, such as climate instrument development and measurements that are currently part of the portfolio of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, should be accompanied by the provision of additional resources to allow the Administration to carry out the increased responsibilities without adversely impacting its implementation of its existing Earth science programs and priorities.

(b) GENERAL.—The Administrator shall continue to carry out a balanced Earth science program that includes Earth science research, Earth systematic missions, competitive Venture class missions, other missions and data analysis, mission operations, technology development, and applied sciences, consistent with the recommendations and priorities established in the National Academies' Earth Science Decadal Survey.

(c) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, non-government entities, and international partners, as appropriate, in carrying out the Administration's Earth science program. The Administration shall continue to develop first-of-a-kind instruments that, once proved, can be transitioned to other agencies for operations.

(d) REIMBURSEMENT.—Whenever responsibilities for the development of sensors or for measurements are transferred to the Administration from another agency, the Administration shall seek, to the extent possible, to be reimbursed for the assumption of such responsibilities.

SEC. 342. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 341(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small Earth science missions.

SEC. 343. VENTURE CLASS MISSIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration's Venture class missions provide opportunities for innovation in the Earth science program, offer low-cost approaches

for high-quality competitive science investigations, enable frequent flight opportunities to engage the Earth science and applications community, and serve as a training ground for students and young scientists. It is further the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to increase the number of Venture class projects to the extent practicable as part of a balanced Earth science program.

SEC. 344. ASSESSMENT.

The Administrator shall carry out a scientific assessment of the Administration's Earth science global datasets for the purpose of identifying those datasets that are useful for understanding regional changes and variability, and for informing applied science research. The Administrator shall complete and transmit the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

SEC. 401. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a robust aeronautics research portfolio will help maintain the United States status as a leader in aviation, enhance the competitiveness of the United States in the world economy and improve the quality of life of all citizens;

(2) aeronautics research is essential to the Administration's mission, continues to be an important core element of the Administration's mission and should be supported;

(3) the Administrator should coordinate and consult with relevant Federal agencies and the private sector to minimize duplication and leverage resources; and

(4) carrying aeronautics research to a level of maturity that allows the Administration's research results to be transitioned to the users, whether private or public sector, is critical to their eventual adoption.

SEC. 402. AERONAUTICS RESEARCH GOALS.

The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio ranging from fundamental research through integrated systems research with specific research goals, including the following:

(1) ENHANCE AIRSPACE OPERATIONS AND SAFETY.—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall address research needs of the Next Generation Air Transportation System and identify critical gaps in technology which must be bridged to enable the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System so that safety and productivity improvements can be achieved as soon as possible.

(2) IMPROVE AIR VEHICLE PERFORMANCE.—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall conduct research to improve aircraft performance and minimize environmental impacts. The Associate Administrator for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall consider and pursue concepts to reduce noise, emissions, and fuel consumption while maintaining high safety standards, and shall conduct research related to the impact of alternative fuels on the safety, reliability and maintainability of current and new air vehicles.

(3) STRENGTHEN AVIATION SAFETY.—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall proactively address safety challenges associated with current and new air vehicles and with operations in the Nation's current and future air transportation system.

(4) DEMONSTRATE CONCEPTS AT THE SYSTEM LEVEL.—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall mature the most promising technologies to the point at which they can be demonstrated in a relevant environment and shall integrate individual components and technologies as appropriate to ensure that they perform in an integrated manner as well as they do when operated individually.

SEC. 403. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and other Federal agencies, shall carry out research and technological development to facilitate the safe integration of unmanned aerial systems into the National Airspace System, including—

(1) positioning and navigation systems;

(2) sense and avoid capabilities;

(3) secure data and communication links;

(4) flight recovery systems; and

(5) human systems integration.

(b) ROADMAP.—The Administrator shall update a roadmap for unmanned aerial systems research and development and transmit this roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) COOPERATIVE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE ACTIVITIES.—Section 31504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''Operational flight data derived from these cooperative agreements shall be made available, in appropriate and usable formats, to the Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration for the development of regulatory standards.'' after ''in remote areas.''.

SEC. 404. RESEARCH PROGRAM ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS USED IN AERONAUTICS.

(a) PURPOSE OF RESEARCH.—The Administrator shall continue the Administration's cooperative research program with industry to identify and demonstrate more effective and safe ways of developing, manufacturing, and maintaining composite materials for use in airframes, subsystems, and propulsion components.

(b) EXPOSURE OF RESEARCH TO NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS.—To the extent practicable, the Administration's cooperative research program with industry on composite materials shall provide timely access to that research to the next generation of engineers and technicians at universities, community colleges, and vocational schools, thereby helping to develop a workforce ready to take on the development, manufacture, and maintenance of components reliant on advanced composite materials.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Administrator, in overseeing the Administration's work on composite materials, shall consult with relevant Federal agencies and partners in industry to accelerate safe development and certification processes for new composite materials and design methods while maintaining rigorous inspection of new composite materials.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate detailing the Administration's work on new composite materials and the coordination efforts among Federal agencies and industry partners.

SEC. 405. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a research and development roadmap for hypersonic aircraft research with the objective of exploring hypersonic science and technology using air-breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied research, and development of flight research demonstration vehicles. The roadmap shall prescribe appropriate agency contributions, coordination efforts, and technology milestones.

SEC. 406. SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the ability to fly commercial aircraft over land at supersonic speeds without adverse impacts on the environment or on local communities could open new global markets and enable new transportation capabilities; and

(2) continuing the Administration's research program is necessary to assess the impact in a relevant environment of commercial supersonic flight operations and provide the basis for establishing appropriate sonic boom standards for such flight operations.

(b) ROADMAP FOR SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap that allows for flexible funding profiles for supersonic aeronautics research and development with the objective of developing and demonstrating, in a relevant environment, airframe and propulsion technologies to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight in an efficient and economical manner. The roadmap shall include—

(1) the baseline research as embodied by the Administration's existing research on supersonic flight;

(2) a list of specific technological, environmental, and other challenges that must be overcome to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight;

(3) a research plan to address such challenges, as well as a project timeline for accomplishing relevant research goals;

(4) a plan for coordination with stakeholders, including relevant government agencies and industry; and

(5) a plan for how the Administration will ensure that sonic boom research is coordinated as appropriate with relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 407. RESEARCH ON NEXTGEN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS AND TOOLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with other Federal agencies, review at least annually the alignment and timing of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, and shall make any necessary adjustments by reprioritizing or retargeting the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen initiative.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Administrator shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate annually regarding the progress of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, including details of technologies transferred to relevant Federal agencies for eventual operation implementation, consultation

with other Federal agencies, and any adjustments made to research activities.

SEC. 408. ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap for research relating to rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles, with the objective of developing and demonstrating improved safety, noise, and environmental impact in a relevant environment. The roadmap shall include specific goals for the research, a timeline for implementation, metrics for success, and guidelines for collaboration and coordination with industry and other Federal agencies.

SEC. 409. TRANSFORMATIVE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, in looking strategically into the future and ensuring that the Administration's Center personnel are at the leading edge of aeronautics research, should encourage investigations into the early-stage advancement of new processes, novel concepts, and innovative technologies that have the potential to meet national aeronautics needs. The Administrator shall continue to ensure that awards for the investigation of these concepts and technologies are open for competition among Administration civil servants at its Centers, separate from other awards open only to non-Administration sources.

SEC. 410. STUDY OF UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to benchmark the position of the United States in civil aeronautics research compared to the rest of the world. The study shall—

(1) seek to define metrics by which relative leadership in civil aeronautics research can be determined;

(2) ascertain how the United States compares to other countries in the field of civil aeronautics research and any relevant trends; and

(3) provide recommendations on what can be done to regain or retain global leadership, including—

(A) identifying research areas where United States expertise has been or is at risk of being overtaken;

(B) defining appropriate roles for the Administration;

(C) identifying public-private partnerships that could be formed; and

(D) estimating the impact on the Administration's budget should such recommendations be implemented.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 501. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that space technology is critical to—

(1) enabling a new class of Administration missions beyond low-Earth orbit;

(2) developing technologies and capabilities that will make the Administration's missions more affordable and more reliable; and

(3) improving technological capabilities and promoting innovation for the Administration and the Nation.

SEC. 502. SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 70507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 70507. Space Technology Program authorized

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Administrator shall establish a Space Technology Program to pursue the research and development of advanced space technologies that have the potential of delivering innovative solutions and to support human exploration of the solar system or advanced space science. The program established by the Administrator shall take into consideration the recommendations of the National Academies' review of the Administration's Space Technology roadmaps and priorities, as well as applicable enabling aspects of the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504. In conducting the space technology program established under this section, the Administrator shall—

''(1) to the maximum extent practicable, use a competitive process to select projects to be supported as part of the program;

''(2) make use of small satellites and the Administration's suborbital and ground-based platforms, to the extent practicable and appropriate, to demonstrate space technology concepts and developments; and

''(3) undertake partnerships with other Federal agencies, universities, private industry, and other spacefaring nations, as appropriate.

''(b) SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall organize and manage the Administration's Small Business Innovation Research program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program within the Space Technology Program.

''(c) NONDUPLICATION CERTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall include in the budget for each fiscal year, as transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, a certification that no project, program, or mission undertaken by the Space Technology Program is duplicative of any other project, program, or mission conducted by another office or directorate of the Administration.''.

(b) COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND ALIGNMENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration's projects, programs, and activities in support of technology research and development of advanced space technologies are fully coordinated and aligned and that results from such work are shared and leveraged within the Administration. Projects, programs, and activities being conducted by the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate in support of research and development of advanced space technologies and systems focusing on human space exploration should continue in that Directorate. The Administrator shall ensure that organizational responsibility for research and development activities in support of human space exploration not initiated as of the date of enactment of this Act is established on the basis of a sound rationale. The Administrator shall provide the rationale in the report specified in subsection (d).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report comparing the Administration's space technology investments with the high-priority technology areas identified by the National Academies in the National Research Council's report on the Administration's Space Technology Roadmaps. The Administrator shall identify how the Administration will address any gaps between the agency's investments and the recommended technology areas, including a projection of funding requirements.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall include in the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year the rationale for assigning organizational responsibility for, in the year prior to the budget fiscal year, each initiated project, program, and mission focused on research and development of advanced technologies for human space exploration.

(e) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 70507 in the table of sections for chapter 705 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''70507. Space Technology Program authorized.''.

SEC. 503. UTILIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station and commercial services for space technology demonstration missions in low-Earth orbit whenever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

SEC. 601. EDUCATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration's missions are an inspiration for Americans and in particular for the next generation, and that this inspiration has a powerful effect in stimulating interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (in this section referred to as ''STEM'') education and careers;

(2) the Administration's Office of Education and mission directorates have been effective in delivering Administration educational content because of the strong engagement of Administration scientists and engineers in the Administration's education and outreach activities; and

(3) the Administration should be a central partner in contributing to the goals of the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall continue its education and outreach efforts to—

(1) increase student interest and participation in STEM education;

(2) improve public literacy in STEM;

(3) employ proven strategies for improving student learning and teaching;

(4) provide curriculum support materials; and

(5) create and support opportunities for professional development for STEM teachers.

(c) ORGANIZATION.—In order to ensure the inspiration and engagement of children and the general public, the Administration shall continue its STEM education and outreach activities within the Science, Aeronautics Research, Space Operations, and Exploration Mission Directorates.

(d) CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall continue to carry out education and outreach programs and activities through the Office of Education and the Administration mission directorates and shall continue to engage, to the maximum extent practicable, Administration and Administration-supported researchers and engineers in carrying out those programs and activities.

(e) CONTINUATION OF SPACE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall continue to operate the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program through a national network consisting of a State-based consortium in each State that provides flexibility to the States, with the objective of providing

hands-on research, training, and education programs, with measurable outcomes, to enhance America's STEM education and workforce.

(f) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms its commitment to informal science education at science centers and planetariums as set forth in section 616 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. 40907).

SEC. 602. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, which was established in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 2486 et seq.), has been an important program by which the Federal Government has partnered with State and local governments, universities, private industry, and other organizations to enhance the understanding and use of space and aeronautics activities and their benefits through education, fostering of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary space research and training, and supporting Federal funding for graduate fellowships in space-related fields, among other purposes.

(b) REVIEW.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for—

(1) a review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, including its structure and capabilities for supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training consistent with the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan; and

(2) recommendations on measures, if needed, to enhance the Program's effectiveness and mechanisms by which any increases in funding appropriated by Congress can be applied.

(c) NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PURPOSES.—Section 40301 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (5);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting ''; and''; and

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

''(7) support outreach to primary and secondary schools to help support STEM engagement and learning at the K-12 level and to encourage K-12 students to pursue postsecondary degrees in fields related to space.''.

(2) REGIONAL CONSORTIUM.—Section 40306 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) INCLUSION OF 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.—A space grant regional consortium designated in paragraph (1)(B) may include one or more 2-year institutions of higher education.''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(D)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3)(C) and (4)(D)''.

SEC. 603. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should make the continuation of the Administration's Minority University Research and Education Program a priority in order to further STEM education for underrepresented students.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. ASTEROID RETRIEVAL MISSION.

(a) ASTEROID RETRIEVAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the proposed Asteroid Retrieval Mission. Such report shall include—

(1) a detailed budget profile, including cost estimates for the development of all necessary technologies and spacecraft required for the mission;

(2) a detailed technical plan that includes milestones and a specific schedule;

(3) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future human missions to Mars which could not be gained by lunar missions;

(4) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future planetary defense missions, against impact threats from near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter, which could not be gained by robotic missions; and

(5) a complete assessment by the Small Bodies Assessment Group and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of how the proposed mission is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(b) MARS FLYBY REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, an independent, private systems engineering and technical assistance organization contracted by the Human Exploration Operations Mission Directorate shall transmit to the Administrator, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report analyzing the proposal for a Mars Flyby human spaceflight mission to be launched in 2021. Such report shall include—

(1) a technical development, test, fielding, and operations plan using the Space Launch System and other systems to successfully mount a Mars Flyby mission by 2021;

(2) a description of the benefits in scientific knowledge and technologies demonstrated by a Mars Flyby mission to be launched in 2021 suitable for future Mars missions; and

(3) an annual budget profile, including cost estimates, for the development test, fielding, and operations plan to carry out a Mars Flyby mission through 2021 and comparison of that budget profile to the 5-year budget profile contained in the President's Budget request for fiscal year 2015.

(c) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after transmittal of the report specified in subsection (b), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of whether the proposal for a Mars Flyby Mission to be launched in 2021 is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(d) CREWED MISSION.—The report transmitted under subsection (b) may consider a crewed mission with the Space Launch System in cis-lunar space prior to the Mars Flyby mission in 2021.

SEC. 702. TERMINATION LIABILITY SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that:

(1) The International Space Station, the Space Launch System, and the Orion crew capsule will enable the Nation to continue operations in low-Earth orbit and to send its astronauts to deep space. The James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved and advance the search for the origins of our universe. As a result of their unique capabilities and their critical contribution to the future of space exploration, these systems have been designated by Congress and the Administration as priority investments.

(2) In addition, contractors are currently holding program funding, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, to cover the potential termination liability should the Government choose to terminate a program for convenience. As a result, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are unavailable for meaningful work on these programs.

(3) According to the Government Accountability Office, the Administration procures most of its goods and services through contracts, and it terminates very few of them. In fiscal year 2010, the Administration terminated 28 of 16,343 active contracts and orders—a termination rate of about 0.17 percent.

(4) The Administration should vigorously pursue a policy on termination liability that maximizes the utilization of its appropriated funds to make maximum progress in meeting established technical goals and schedule milestones on these high-priority programs.

SEC. 703. BASELINE AND COST CONTROLS.

Section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''Procedural Requirements 7120.5c, dated March 22, 2005'' and inserting ''Procedural Requirements 7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012''; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking ''beginning 18 months after the date the Administrator transmits a report under subsection (e)(1)(A)'' and inserting ''beginning 18 months after the Administrator makes such determination''.

SEC. 704. PROJECT AND PROGRAM RESERVES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the judicious use of program and project reserves provides the Administration's project and program managers with the flexibility needed to manage projects and programs to ensure that the impacts of contingencies can be mitigated.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration's criteria for establishing the amount of reserves held at the project and program levels;

(2) how such criteria relate to the agency's policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level; and

(3) the Administration's criteria for waiving the policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level and alternative strategies and mechanisms aimed at controlling program and project costs when a waiver is granted.

SEC. 705. INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration's procedures for conducting independent reviews of projects and programs at lifecycle milestones and how the Administration ensures the independence of the individuals who conduct those reviews prior to their assignment;

(2) the internal and external entities independent of project and program management that conduct reviews of projects and programs at life cycle milestones; and

(3) how the Administration ensures the independence of such entities and their members.

SEC. 706. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

Section 50116(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''\, while protecting national security'' after ''research community''.

SEC. 707. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public Administration to assess the effectiveness of the NASA Advisory Council and to make recommendations to Congress for any change to—

(1) the functions of the Council;

(2) the appointment of members to the Council;

(3) qualifications for members of the Council;

(4) duration of terms of office for members of the Council;

(5) frequency of meetings of the Council;

(6) the structure of leadership and Committees of the Council; and

(7) levels of professional staffing for the Council.

In carrying out the assessment, the Academy shall also assess the impacts of broadening the Council's role to advising Congress, and any other issues that the Academy determines could potentially impact the effectiveness of the Council. The Academy shall consider the past activities of the NASA Advisory Council, as well as the activities of other analogous federal advisory bodies in conducting its assessment. The results of the assessment, including any recommendations, shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.—Section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and Congress'' after ''advice to the Administration''.

(c) SUNSET.—Subsection (b) shall expire on September 30, 2014.

SEC. 708. COST ESTIMATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that realistic cost estimating is critically important to the ultimate success of major space development projects. The Administration has devoted significant efforts over the past five years to improving its cost estimating capabilities, but it is important that the Administration continue its efforts to develop and implement guidance in establishing realistic cost estimates.

(b) GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall provide to programs and projects and in a manner consistent with the Administration's Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements—

(1) guidance on when an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment should be used; and

(2) the criteria to be used to make such a determination.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report—

(1) describing efforts to enhance internal cost estimation and assessment expertise;

(2) describing the mechanisms the Administration is using and will continue to use to ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to cost estimation;

(3) listing the steps the Administration is undertaking to advance consistent implementation of the joint cost and schedule process;

(4) identifying criteria used by programs and projects in determining when to conduct an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment; and

(5) listing—

(A) the costs of each individual Independent Cost Estimate or Independent Cost Assessment activity conducted in fiscal year 2011, fiscal year 2012, and fiscal year 2013;

(B) the purpose of the activity;

(C) identification of the primary Administration unit or outside body that conducted the activity; and

(D) key findings and recommendations.

(d) UPDATED REPORT.—Subsequent to submission of the report under subsection (c), for each subsequent year, the Administrator shall provide an update of listed elements in conjunction with subsequent congressional budget justifications.

SEC. 709. AVOIDING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN MAJOR ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide uniform guidance and recommend revised requirements for organizational conflicts of interest by contractors in major acquisition programs in order to address elements identified in subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The revised regulations required by subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) address organizational conflicts of interest that could potentially arise as a result of—

(A) lead system integrator contracts on major acquisition programs and contracts that follow lead system integrator contracts on such programs, particularly contracts for production;

(B) the ownership of business units performing systems engineering and technical assistance functions, professional services, or management support services in relation to major acquisition programs by contractors who simultaneously own business units competing to perform as either the prime contractor or the supplier of a major subsystem or component for such programs;

(C) the award of major subsystem contracts by a prime contractor for a major acquisition program to business units or other affiliates of the same parent corporate entity, and particularly the award of subcontracts for software integration or the development of a proprietary software system architecture; or

(D) the performance by, or assistance of, contractors in technical evaluations on major acquisition programs;

(2) ensure that the Administration receives advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters with respect to major acquisition programs from objective sources independent of the prime contractor;

(3) require that a contract for the performance of systems engineering and technical assistance functions for a major acquisition program contains a provision prohibiting the contractor or any affiliate of the contractor from participating as a prime contractor or a major subcontractor in the development of a system under the program; and

(4) establish such limited exceptions to the requirement in paragraphs (2) and (3) as may be necessary to ensure that the Administration has continued access to advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters from highly-qualified contractors with domain experience and expertise, while ensuring that such advice comes from sources that are objective and unbiased.

SEC. 710. FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration must reverse the deteriorating condition of its facilities and infrastructure, as this condition is hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of research performed by both the Administration and industry participants making use of Administration facilities, thus reducing the competitiveness of the United States aerospace industry;

(2) the Administration has a role in providing laboratory capabilities to industry participants that are economically viable as commercial entities and thus are not available elsewhere;

(3) to ensure continued access to reliable and efficient world-class facilities by researchers, the Administration should seek to establish strategic partnerships with other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and industry, as appropriate; and

(4) decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities must be made in the context of meeting future Administration and other Federal agencies' laboratory needs, including those required to meet the activities supporting the Human Exploration Roadmap required by section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that the Administration maintain reliable and efficient facilities and that decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities be made in the context of meeting future Administration needs.

(c) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan that has the goal of positioning the Administration to have the facilities, laboratories, tools, and approaches necessary to address future Administration requirements. Such plan shall identify—

(1) future Administration research and development and testing needs;

(2) a strategy for identifying facilities that are candidates for disposal, that is consistent with the national strategic direction set forth in—

(A) the National Space Policy;

(B) the National Aeronautics Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Infrastructure Plan;

(C) National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Acts; and

(D) the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) a strategy for the maintenance, repair, upgrading, and modernization of the Administration's laboratories, facilities, and equipment;

(4) criteria for prioritizing deferred maintenance tasks and also for upgrading or modernizing laboratories, facilities, and equipment and implementing processes, plans, and policies for guiding the Administration's Centers on whether to maintain, repair, upgrade, or modernize a facility and for determining the type of instrument to be used;

(5) an assessment of modifications needed to maximize usage of facilities that offer unique and highly specialized benefits to the aerospace industry and the American public; and

(6) implementation steps, including a timeline, milestones, and an estimate of resources required for carrying out the plan.

(d) POLICY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish and make publically available a policy that guides the Administration's use of existing authorities to out-grant, lease, excess to the General Services Administration, sell, decommission, demolish, or otherwise transfer property, facilities, or infrastructure. This policy shall establish criteria for the use of authorities, best practices, standardized procedures, and guidelines for how to appropriately manage property, infrastructure, and facilities.

(e) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under subsection (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL FUND.—The Administrator shall establish a capital fund for the modernization of facilities and laboratories. The Administrator shall ensure to the maximum extent practicable that all financial savings achieved by closing outdated or surplus facilities at an Administration Center shall be made available to that Center for the purpose of modernizing the Center's facilities and laboratories and for upgrading the infrastructure at the Center.

(g) REPORT ON CAPITAL FUND.—Expenditures and other activities of the fund established under subsection (f) shall require review and approval by the Administrator and the status, including the amounts held in the capital fund, shall be reported to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate in conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year.

SEC. 711. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT ELECTRONIC PARTS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to address the detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.

(2) CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide that—

(A) Administration contractors who supply electronic parts or products that include electronic parts are responsible for detecting and avoiding the use or inclusion of counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts in such products and for any rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts; and

(B) the cost of counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts and the cost of rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts are not allowable costs under Administration contracts, unless—

(i) the covered contractor has an operational system to detect and avoid counterfeit parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts that has been reviewed and approved by the Administration or the Department of Defense;

(ii) the covered contractor provides timely notice to the Administration pursuant to paragraph (4); or

(iii) the counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts were provided to the contractor as Government property in accordance with part 45 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) require that the Administration and Administration contractors and subcontractors at all tiers—

(i) obtain electronic parts that are in production or currently available in stock from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers, or from suppliers who obtain such parts exclusively from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; and

(ii) obtain electronic parts that are not in production or currently available in stock from suppliers that meet qualification requirements established pursuant to subparagraph (C);

(B) establish documented requirements consistent with published industry standards or Government contract requirements for—

(i) notification of the Administration; and

(ii) inspection, testing, and authentication of electronic parts that the Administration or an Administration contractor or subcontractor obtains from any source other than a source described in subparagraph (A);

(C) establish qualification requirements, consistent with the requirements of section 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to which the Administration may identify suppliers that have appropriate policies and procedures in place to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts; and

(D) authorize Administration contractors and subcontractors to identify and use additional suppliers beyond those identified pursuant to subparagraph (C) provided that—

(i) the standards and processes for identifying such suppliers comply with established industry standards;

(ii) the contractor or subcontractor assumes responsibility for the authenticity of parts provided by such suppliers as provided in paragraph (2); and

(iii) the selection of such suppliers is subject to review and audit by appropriate Administration officials.

(4) TIMELY NOTIFICATION.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require that any Administration contractor or subcontractor who becomes aware, or has reason to suspect, that any end item, component, part, or material contained in supplies purchased by the Administration, or purchased by a contractor or subcontractor for delivery to, or on behalf of, the Administration, contains counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts, shall provide notification to the applicable Administration contracting officer within 30 calendar days.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the revised regulations specified in subsection (a) have been implemented, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report updating the Administration's actions to prevent counterfeit electronic parts from entering the supply chain as described in its October 2011 report pursuant to section 1206(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18444(d)).

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''electronic part'' means a discrete electronic component, including a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or diode that is intended for use in a safety or mission critical application.

SEC. 712. SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.

(a) COST SHARING.—To the extent that the Administrator determines practicable, the funds provided by the Government under a funded Space Act Agreement shall not exceed the total amount provided by other parties to the Space Act Agreement.

(b) NEED.—A funded Space Act Agreement may be used only when the use of a standard contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is not feasible or appropriate, as determined by the Associate Administrator for Procurement.

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The Administrator shall make available for public notice and comment each proposed Space Act Agreement at least 30 days before entering into such agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information.

(d) TRANSPARENCY.—The Administrator shall publicly disclose on the Administration's website and make available in a searchable format each Space Act Agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information, not later than 60 days after such agreement is signed.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the use of Space Act Agreement authority by the Administration during the previous fiscal year.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include for each Space Act Agreement in effect at the time of the report—

(A) an indication of whether the agreement is a reimbursable, nonreimbursable, or funded Space Act Agreement;

(B) a description of—

(i) the subject and terms;

(ii) the parties;

(iii) the responsible—

(I) mission directorate;

(II) center; or

(III) headquarters element;

(iv) the value;

(v) the extent of the cost sharing among Federal Government and non-Federal sources;

(vi) the time period or schedule; and

(vii) all milestones; and

(C) an indication of whether the agreement was renewed during the previous fiscal year.

(3) ANTICIPATED AGREEMENTS.—The report shall also include a list of all anticipated reimbursable, nonreimbursable, and funded Space Act Agreements for the upcoming fiscal year.

(4) CUMULATIVE PROGRAM BENEFITS.—The report shall also include, with respect to the Space Act Agreements covered by the report, a summary of—

(A) the technology areas in which research projects were conducted under such agreements;

(B) the extent to which the use of the Space Act Agreements—

(i) has contributed to a broadening of the technology and industrial base available for meeting Administration needs; and

(ii) has fostered within the technology and industrial base new relationships and practices that support the United States; and

(C) the total amount of value received by the Federal Government during the fiscal year pursuant to such Space Act Agreements.

SEC. 713. HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 70702(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) any other orbital or suborbital space vehicle carrying humans—

''(A) that is owned by the Federal Government; or

''(B) that is being used pursuant to a contract or Space Act Agreement, as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and

Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014, with the Federal Government for carrying a researcher or payload funded by the Federal Government; or''.

SEC. 714. FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to ''seek and encourage, to the maximum extent possible, the fullest commercial use of space,'' as described in section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the Administration's efforts to comply with the policy;

(2) an explanation of criteria used to define compliance;

(3) a description of programs, policies, and activities the Administration is using, and will continue to use, to ensure compliance;

(4) an explanation of how the Administration could expand on the efforts to comply; and

(5) a summary of all current and planned activities pursuant to this policy.

(c) BARRIERS TO FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to reduce impediments, bureaucracy, redundancy, and burdens to ensure the fullest commercial use of space as required by section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 715. ORBITAL DEBRIS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that orbital debris poses serious risks to the operational space capabilities of the United States and that an international commitment and integrated strategic plan are needed to mitigate the growth of orbital debris wherever possible. Congress finds the delay in the Office of Science and Technology Policy's submission of a report on the status of international coordination and development of mitigation strategies to be inconsistent with such risks.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) COORDINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of efforts to coordinate with countries within the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee to mitigate the effects and growth of orbital debris as required by section 1202(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(1)).

(2) MITIGATION STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of the orbital debris mitigation strategy required under section 1202(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(2)).

SEC. 716. REVIEW OF ORBITAL DEBRIS REMOVAL CONCEPTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of orbital debris in low-Earth orbit poses risks for human activities and robotic spacecraft and that this debris may increase due to collisions between existing debris objects. Understanding options to address and remove orbital debris is important for ensuring safe and effective spacecraft operations in low-Earth orbit.

(b) REVIEW.—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall solicit and review concepts and technological options for removing orbital debris from low-Earth orbit. The solicitation and review shall also address the requirements for and feasibility of developing and implementing each of the options.

(c) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the solicitation and review required under subsection (b).

SEC. 717. USE OF OPERATIONAL COMMERCIAL SUBORBITAL VEHICLES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION.

(a) POLICY.—The Administrator shall develop a policy on the use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities.

(b) PLAN.—The Administrator shall prepare a plan on the Administration's use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities. The plan shall—

(1) describe the purposes for which the Administration intends to use such vehicles;

(2) describe the processes required to support such use, including the criteria used to determine which scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities are selected for a suborbital flight;

(3) describe Administration, space flight operator, and supporting contractor responsibilities for developing standard payload interfaces and conducting payload safety analyses, payload integration and processing, payload operations, and safety assurance for Administration-sponsored space flight participants, among other functions required to fly Administration-sponsored payloads and space flight participants on operational commercial suborbital vehicles;

(4) identify Administration-provided hardware, software, or services that may be provided to commercial reusable suborbital space flight operators on a cost-reimbursable basis, through agreements or contracts entered into under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code; and

(5) describe the United States Government and space flight operator responsibilities for liability and indemnification with respect to commercial suborbital vehicle flights that involve Administration-sponsored payloads or activities, Administration-supported space flight participants, or other Administration-related contributions.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES AND RISKS.—The Administrator shall assess and characterize the potential capabilities and performance of commercial reusable suborbital vehicles for addressing scientific research, including research requiring access to low-gravity and microgravity environments, for carrying out technology demonstrations related to science, exploration, or space operations requirements, and for providing opportunities for educating and training space scientists and engineers, once those vehicles become operational. The assessment shall also characterize the risks of using potential commercial reusable suborbital flights to Administration-sponsored researchers and scientific investigations and flight hardware.

(d) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan and assessment described in subsections (b) and (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—In conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing progress in carrying out the Commercial Reusable Suborbital Research Program, including the number and type of suborbital missions planned in each fiscal year.

(f) INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY.—The Administrator shall not proceed with a request for proposals, award any contract, commit any United States Government funds, or enter into any other agreement for the provision of a commercial reusable suborbital vehicle launch service for an Administration-sponsored spaceflight participant until transmittal of the plan and assessment specified in subsections (b) and (c), the liability issues associated with the use of such systems by the United States Government have been addressed, and the liability and indemnification provisions that are planned to be included in such contracts or agreements have been provided to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 718. FUNDAMENTAL SPACE LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It the sense of Congress that fundamental, discovery-based space life and physical sciences research is critical for enabling space exploration, protecting humans in space, and providing societal benefits, and that the space environment facilitates the advancement of understanding of the life sciences and physical sciences. Space life and physical science research contributes to advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research, and provides careers and training opportunities in academia, Federal laboratories, and commercial industry. Congress encourages the Administrator to augment discovery-based fundamental research and to establish requirements reflecting the importance of such research in keeping with the priorities established in the National Academies' decadal survey entitled ''Recapturing a Future for Space Exploration: Life and Physical Sciences Research for a New Era''.

(b) BUDGET REQUEST.—The Administrator shall include as part of the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year a budget line for fundamental space life and physical sciences research, devoted to competitive, peer-reviewed grants, that is separate from the International Space Station Operations account.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator, in consultation with academia, other Federal agencies, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop a strategic plan for carrying out competitive, peer-reviewed fundamental space life science and physical sciences and related technology research, among other activities, consistent with the priorities in the National Academies' decadal survey described in subsection (a).

(2) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 719. RESTORING COMMITMENT TO ENGINEERING RESEARCH.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that engineering excellence has long been a hallmark of the Administration's ability to make significant advances in aeronautics and space exploration. However, as has been noted in recent National Academies reports, increasingly constrained funding and competing priorities have led to an erosion of the Administration's commitment to basic engineering research. This research provides the basis for the technology development that enables the Administration's many challenging missions to succeed. If current trends continue, the Administration's ability to attract and maintain the best and brightest engineering workforce at its Centers as well as its ability to remain on the cutting edge of aeronautical and space technology will continue to erode and will threaten the Administration's ability to be a world leader in aeronautics research and development and space exploration.

(b) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan for restoring a meaningful basic engineering research program at the Administration's Centers, including, as appropriate, collaborations with industry, universities, and other relevant organizations. The plan shall identify the organizational approach to be followed, an initial set of basic research priorities, and a proposed budget.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan specified in subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 720. LIQUID ROCKET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of Defense to ensure that any next generation liquid rocket engine made in the United States for national security space launch objectives can contribute, to the extent practicable, to the space programs and missions carried out by the Administration.

SEC. 721 REMOTE SATELLITE SERVICING DEMONSTRATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration plays a key role in demonstrating the feasibility of using robotic technologies for a spacecraft that could autonomously access, inspect, repair, and refuel satellites;

(2) demonstrating this feasibility would both assist the Administration in its future missions and provide other Federal agencies and private sector entities with enhanced confidence in the feasibility to robotically refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain their satellites in both near and distant orbits; and

(3) the capability to refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain satellites robotically could add years of functional life to satellites.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing the Administration's—

(1) activities, tools, and techniques associated with the ultimate goal of autonomously servicing satellites using robotic spacecraft;

(2) efforts to coordinate its technology development and demonstrations with other Federal agencies and private sector entities that conduct programs, projects, or activities on on-orbit satellite inspection and servicing capabilities;

(3) efforts to leverage the work of these Federal agencies and private sector entities into the Administration's plans;

(4) accomplishments to date in demonstrating various servicing technologies;

(5) major technical and operational challenges encountered and mitigation measures taken; and

(6) demonstrations needed to increase confidence in the use of the technologies for operational missions, and the timeframe for these demonstrations.

SEC. 722. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that information security is central to the Administration's ability to protect information and information systems vital to its mission.

(b) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the effectiveness of the Administration's Information Technology Governance. The study shall include an assessment of—

(1) the resources available for overseeing Administration-wide information technology operations, investments, and security measures and the Chief Information Officer's visibility into and access to those resources;

(2) the effectiveness of the Administration's decentralized information technology structure, decisionmaking processes and authorities and its ability to enforce information security; and

(3) the impact of providing the Chief Information Officer approval authority over information technology investments that exceed a defined monetary threshold and any potential impacts of the Chief Information Officer having such authority on the Administration's missions, flights programs and projects, research activities, and Center operations.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit a report detailing the results of the study conducted under subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 723. STRENGTHENING ADMINISTRATION SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the public disclosure of security and export control violations at its research centers, the Administration contracted with the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct an independent assessment of how the Administration carried out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(2) The assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration concluded that ''NASA networks are compromised'', that the Administration lacked a standardized and systematic approach to export compliance, and that individuals within the Administration were not held accountable when making serious, preventable errors in carrying out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on how it plans to address each of the recommendations made in the security assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration and the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office and the Administration's Office of the Inspector General regarding security and safeguarding export control information.

(c) REVIEW.—Within one year of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate its assessment of how the Administration has complied with the recommendations described in subsection (b).

SEC. 724. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CONTRACTORS THAT HAVE COMMITTED FRAUD OR OTHER CRIMES.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2014 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Administration 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—

(A) 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;

(B) violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or

(C) 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;

(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.

SEC. 725. PROTECTION OF APOLLO LANDING SITES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with all relevant agencies of the Federal Government and other appropriate entities and individuals, shall carry out a review and assessment of the issues involved in protecting and preserving historically important Apollo Program lunar landing sites and Apollo program artifacts residing on the lunar surface, including those pertaining to Apollo 11 and Apollo 17. The review and assessment shall, at a minimum, include determination of what risks to the protection and preservation of those sites and artifacts exist or may exist in the future, what measures are required to ensure such protection and preservation, the extent to which additional domestic legislation or international treaties or agreements will be required, and specific recommendations for protecting and preserving those lunar landing sites and artifacts.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment required under subsection (a).

SEC. 726. ASTRONAUT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTHCARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Academies' Institute of Medicine report ''Health Standards for Long Duration and Exploration

Spaceflight: Ethics Principles, Responsibilities, and Decision Framework'' found that the Administration has ethical responsibilities for and should adopt policies and processes related to health standards for long duration and exploration spaceflights that recognize those ethical responsibilities. In particular, the report recommended that the Administration ''provide preventative long-term health screening and surveillance of astronauts and lifetime health care to protect their health, support ongoing evaluation of health standards, improve mission safety, and reduce risks for current and future astronauts''.

(b) RESPONSE.—The Administration shall prepare a response to the National Academies report recommendation described in subsection (a). The response shall include the estimated budgetary resources required for the implementation of those recommendations, and any options that might be considered as part of the response.

(c) TRANSMITTAL.—The response required under subsection (b) shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 727. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO OBSERVATIONAL DATA SETS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should prioritize the development of tools and interfaces that make publicly available observational data sets more easy to access, analyze, manipulate, and understand for students, teachers, and the American public at large, with a particular focus on K-12 and undergraduate STEM education settings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. 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 H.R. 4412, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, NASA has accomplished some of the most awe-inspiring and technologically advanced space initiatives in the history of mankind.

This bill, H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, helps ensure that the United States will continue its proud tradition of being a world leader in space exploration.

The U.S. was the first nation to put a human on the Moon; and NASA's Voyager 1, an American space mission, was the first human-made object to enter interstellar space.

Our astronauts are national heroes. Alan Shepherd, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Buzz Aldrin are household names. Today's astronauts, like Rick Mastracchio, Mike Hopkins, and Chris Cassidy, inspire American students to study science, technology, engineering, and math.

Space exploration is an investment in our Nation's future—often the distant future. This bill expressed bipartisan support for investment in the future of America's space endeavors. The bill provides the resources and guidance to NASA to push humanity further into the cosmos.

It contains provisions for the development of American rockets that will take cargo and people to low-Earth orbit and beyond. It supports the James Webb Space Telescope, which will identify and characterize new planets in our galaxy and help researchers look back in time to see how the universe began.

It directs NASA to continue to focus resources on the detection of near-Earth asteroids that may threaten the Earth and its inhabitants.

It instructs NASA to design and send a robotic mission to Jupiter's moon, Europa, to see if any life exists in the waters under its icy surface. It directs NASA to work with the National Academies to put together a strategy for finding more exoplanets.

The bill also requires NASA to develop a human exploration roadmap similar to the recommendation made in last week's National Academy of Sciences report. This roadmap will provide a long-term plan for future human space exploration.

This bill also reflects the skepticism that members of the Science Committee and the scientific community have about the Obama administration's proposed asteroid retrieval mission.

The bill requires the administration to provide Congress with a detailed budget profile, a detailed technical plan, a description of the technologies and capabilities expected to be gained in the area of planetary defense, and a review by the Small Bodies Assessment Group and the NASA Advisory Council.

Congress will be better equipped to consider the administration's proposed missions once we have all of the proper information. This bill is an example of how well Congress can work together to accomplish an objective that will benefit the entire Nation. It was voted out of committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the ranking member, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON; Mr. PALAZZO, chairman of the Space Subcommittee; and Ms. EDWARDS, ranking member of the Space Subcommittee, for their leadership in working together to find common ground on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in space and continues to inspire young people to shoot for the stars.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014.

This act has come a long ways from its original state nearly a year ago, when the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on which I serve as ranking member passed a different version of the bill on a party-line vote, a departure from the committee's traditional bipartisan approach to NASA.

However, much has changed since that time, and I want to recognize the efforts of the committee leadership, including Chairman LAMAR SMITH and especially Space Subcommittee Chairman STEVE PALAZZO and Ranking Member DONNA EDWARDS, for their dedication and willingness to work together with me to achieve this bipartisan committee-passed bill, H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014.

While this is not a perfect bill, especially in terms of its short duration and lack of meaningful funding guidance, the bill in its present form includes many important policy provisions that help guide the future of NASA at a critical time for our space program.

In that regard, just last week, a congressionally mandated report on human space exploration by the National Academies was released that stated:

> A sustainable program of human deep space exploration requires an ultimate horizon goal that provides a long-term force.

The report further states:

> There is a consensus in national space policy, international coordination groups, and the public imagination, for Mars as a major goal for human space exploration.

I am pleased that H.R. 4412 is consistent with the National Academies' recommendation on both sides. It establishes a long-term goal for NASA's exploration program of carrying out a human mission to the surface of Mars, and it directs NASA to prepare a human exploration roadmap that will lay out the required milestones and capabilities for achieving that goal.

Achieving any of NASA's goals, including sending humans to the surface of Mars, however, requires investment across NASA's portfolio of programs. To that end and building upon past, successive NASA authorization acts, H.R. 4412 ensures the continuation of NASA as a multimission agency that includes programs in science, aeronautics, human spaceflight, and human exploration.

The bill also builds upon a pillar of Congress' oversight role for our civil space program, namely, ensuring the safety of our astronauts in outer space. Consistent with the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, H.R. 4412 requires that safety be given the highest priority in the selection of a commercial human spaceflight system to transport our astronauts to the international space station.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, NASA has enabled the discovery of new planets outside our solar system, landed

the Curiosity rover on Mars, and continued to study the Sun, our Earth system, and make other advances in space and earth science.

H.R. 4412 includes provisions to ensure the continued strength of NASA's space and earth science programs. It authorizes new studies and strategies on exoplanets and Mars robotic exploration, while also supporting work and future capabilities for astrophysical observatories, such as the James Webb Space Telescope, and planning for a wide-field infrared survey telescope.

About a year and a half ago, a meteor exploded over part of Russia, bringing renewed attention to the risks of near-Earth asteroids. H.R. 4412 builds on the policies that Congress has set in past authorizations to research, survey, detect, and characterize near-Earth asteroids and their risks.

The bill provides direction on NASA's aeronautics research program, an important contributor to our competitiveness in aviation, and it directs a study to benchmark the position of the United States on the aeronautics research with respect to the rest of the world.

H.R. 4412 includes many other good government provisions, including those on orbital debris, information technology governance, and cost controls, among other areas. It is well known that many of our Nation's top engineers and scientists were inspired to pursue science and technology as a result of what we and NASA did with the space program during the Apollo era. NASA's ability to inspire and to engage is like no other part of our government.

While this bill makes clear that NASA's scientists and engineers, as well as NASA-supported researchers, need to continue to play a strong role in NASA's education activities to convey their knowledge and passion to the next generation, that is not enough.

We need a strong NASA with an inspired agenda for the next generation, and we need to fund it at a level commensurate with the task we have given it. Our children and grandchildren are our future science and technology workforce.

They will sustain our leadership on the global science and technology stage, maintain our competitiveness, and make the future discoveries in science and technology.

As I have said before, we must maintain our commitment to NASA to ensure our continued strength and leadership in space going forward.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 4412, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), who is the chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for the time.

I want to echo the words of Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. This is truly a bipartisan bill. The House should be proud of the work the committee has done to be inclusive of Members on both sides of the aisle. The authorization levels are responsible and consistent with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014.

In a time of increasing partisanship on Capitol Hill, both Republicans and Democrats came together on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee to craft legislation that moves beyond congressional districts and parochial interests. This bill provides a clear mission and the resources necessary to support that mission. It also continues looking to NASA to provide a strategic roadmap.

Space Subcommittee Ranking Member DONNA EDWARDS and I worked long days to put this legislation together. While Ms. EDWARDS and I don't always agree, we are united in our unwavering support for NASA and space exploration during this crucial time in our Nation's history. We are committed to once more launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.

I know many of our colleagues agree that American leadership in space is a matter of both national pride and national security. Yet over the last decade, the human exploration program at NASA has been plagued with instability from constantly changing requirements, budgets, and missions. Since President Obama canceled the Constellation program in 2010, NASA's human spaceflight program has been adrift.

We cannot continue changing our program of record every time there is new President. We must be consistent in our commitment to human exploration. That commitment is reflected in today's bipartisan bill, and I am confident it will continue into the future.

The bill before us today requires NASA to develop a human exploration roadmap and provides a framework to build an executable plan for future exploration efforts. The plan required in this bill will serve as a pathway to Mars, with multiple missions or mission sets that may be used to demonstrate those technologies and capabilities necessary for deep space exploration. NASA must use this plan as an opportunity to utilize assets from all the mission directorates to find the most efficient and effective ways to build technologies and capabilities within constrained budgets.

Both the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule are reaffirmed in this bill, consistent with the NASA Authorization Act of 2010, which laid out very clear guidelines and direction for the development of these systems.

This bill authorizes ample funding for the Commercial Crew Program to ensure safe and on-time development of domestic access to the international space station. There are also oversight provisions to ensure transparency in the contracts and processes used to develop these systems. This agreement represents an understanding that both our commercial crew partners and those developing SLS and Orion have a crucial role to play in ending our reliance on Russian rockets.

A concrete plan for the future of human exploration beyond the Earth-Moon system must be developed if we have any hope of ensuring America's leadership in space. While this bill does not require NASA to return humans to the Moon, current Federal law is still in place that provides guidance on the best path forward into our solar system.

As a recent study from the National Research Council pointed out, ''a return to extended surface operations on the Moon would make significant contributions to a strategy ultimately aimed at landing people on Mars.''

This bill is not perfect. I will continue to raise questions and concerns over NASA's budgets: increases in Earth sciences funding at the risk of space exploration budgets, costly and complex distractions such as the proposed asteroid retrieval mission, and maintaining adequate funding for the Space Launch System as the next generation of deep space exploration rockets and vehicles.

Our bill represents a serious bipartisan commitment to space exploration at a serious time in our Nation's history. American leadership in space depends on our ability to put people and sound policy ahead of politics. That is what we have tried do with the House bill.

I urge our friends in the Senate to move forward with us by adopting our commonsense compromise and passing the House bill. Our Nation's space program needs this legislation.

Space exploration has always had its challenges, but the United States has always risen to the occasion. This country was built by people who dream big and do the hard things. I believe the decisions we make today will determine whether the U.S. maintains its leadership in space tomorrow. That is why I am proud to stand by this responsible proposal, alongside Chairman SMITH and Ranking Members JOHNSON and EDWARDS, in support of this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014.

I want to say first a special thank you, Mr. Speaker, to our chairman, Mr. SMITH; our ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON; and my partner in crime, our subcommittee chairman, Mr. PALAZZO. This has indeed been a bipartisan effort. It didn't start out that way, but America and our national space program should be glad that it has ended that way.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, is recognized across the world as a symbol of the United States' greatness as a Nation and its leadership in science and technology. It should not be a surprise that so many developed and emerging nations seek to follow suit in pursuing space exploration.

Space exploration and the United States' preeminence in space is critical to our economic success in the 21st century. NASA, in fact, is our crown jewel. It is one of the things that our government really does do best.

NASA's space and aeronautics programs advance our technological competence, challenge our industries and workforce in ways that sustain their global competitiveness, advance scientific understanding, and truly inspire the next generation to dream big and to garner the skills to turn those dreams into action.

In my own State of Maryland, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center supports more than 15,000 civil service and private sector jobs in my home county of Prince George's County, including highly skilled occupations such as engineers, technicians, mathematicians, and scientists.

NASA also collaborates extensively with Maryland's high-tech business sector. These collaborations encourage the expansion of the skilled workforce that has made Maryland a leader in research and technology. In fact, our State's economy is strengthened by our collective investment in space. And that is true for Maryland, but it is also true across the Nation, because we are explorers and we are innovators.

The NASA Authorization Act of 2014 builds on the bipartisan support that Congress has given NASA as a multi-mission agency with programs in space and Earth science, aeronautics, human spaceflight, and exploration. It also authorizes funding consistent with fiscal year 2014 appropriations that were enacted through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. And while I, too, would have preferred a multiyear authorization of appropriations that would have provided the stability that NASA and its contractor workforce need over time, this bill is foundational, and it provides important policy direction that will strengthen our Nation's space program.

In particular, H.R. 4412 sets the long-term goal for NASA's human exploration program of sending humans to the surface of Mars and directs NASA to provide a human exploration roadmap outlining the capabilities and milestones needed to achieve that goal. Recognizing two of the primary systems needed to accomplish this, H.R. 4412 directs the expeditious development, test, and achievement of the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule for operations as the highest priorities of NASA's human exploration program.

The bill also includes provisions to ensure the full and productive utilization of the international space station, the ISS, and that includes the development of a strategic plan for ISS research and a report on the progress of the organization chosen to manage the ISS national laboratory.

Mr. Speaker, NASA is in the process of working with the commercial industry on the development of human spaceflight systems that can transport NASA's astronauts to and from ISS on U.S. systems. This bill is faithful to the key recommendations of the Columbia accident investigation report as indicated by the ranking member.

In the area of science, the bill directs NASA to seek to ensure, to the extent practicable, a steady cadence of large, medium, and small missions. It requires new National Academies science strategies in extrasolar planet exploration and astrobiology and an assessment of NASA's Mars mission plans and goals. H.R. 4412 also sustains a strong and comprehensive Earth science program—that is important to us at Goddard Spaceflight Center, but it is also important to the Nation—and a sense of the Congress on the importance of the James Webb Space Telescope to science and that priority be given to ensure that the program stays on budget and on schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are all becoming, also, sensitive to orbital debris or space junk. H.R. 4412 includes a number of provisions to advance our scientific and technical understanding of these issues and to identify potential options for mitigating the risk they pose.

Further, NASA's aeronautics research and development activities are critical to ensuring innovation in our aeronautics industry, sustaining safe operations, and mitigating the effects of aviation operations on the environment. The bill ensures that NASA maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio ranging from fundamental research through integrated systems.

H.R. 4412 also provides important policy and programmatic direction on NASA's space technology program, and it reaffirms the importance of NASA's education activities, especially as they involve the NASA mission directorates and the scientists and engineers engaged in NASA programs. The Space Grant Program, in particular, provides critical opportunities for engaging students in the space-related as well as broader STEM fields, and this bill ensures the continuation of Space Grant and requires an independent review to recommend measures to enhance the program's effectiveness.

The bill also provides important good government policy direction, including on cost controls and cost estimation, avoiding conflicts of interest in major NASA acquisition programs.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman 1 more minute.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it also provides for detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts, information technology governance, and increased transparency in Space Act Agreements.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that our committee has worked hard to improve the original base bill and pass it on a bipartisan basis.

I want to thank our ranking member again and our chairman and Chairman PALAZZO. I particularly want to thank all of our staff, especially our subcommittee staff and our personal staff: Chris Shank, Tom Hammond, Jared Stout, Allison Rose-Sonnesyn, Gabriella Ra'anan, Richard Obermann, Allen Li, Pam Whitney, Megan Mitchell, and Anne Nelson.

With that, I urge the passage of H.R. 4412.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), who is a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014.

If enacted, this legislation would authorize NASA programs and set funding levels for fiscal year 2014. It supports the development of space exploration technology like the Space Launch System and critical NASA functions at the Johnson Space Center, which just happens to be located just outside my district. It also sets a clear goal that NASA's human spaceflight program should focus on missions below low Earth orbit.

It is time for NASA to focus scarce taxpayer resources on NASA's core mission: the development of capabilities necessary for manned missions to the Moon and beyond. As NASA no longer has the ability to transport American astronauts into space, it is also important that NASA continue development of systems to transport American astronauts to and from the international space station. We cannot afford to continue paying millions of dollars for seats on a Russian aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, on another front, I would argue that NASA is critical for four more reasons:

First, STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math. Imagine inspiring and encouraging young American students to shoot for the stars. NASA does just that.

Second, the technological advances afforded by NASA and its mission would once again make us, as my colleague from Maryland said, the envy of the world and give us the competitive edge in attracting new ideas, new talent, new businesses.

□ 1645

And third, and very importantly, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that any military commander knows that whoever occupies the high space in a military conflict will most likely win that conflict. Mr. Speaker, there is no other ultimate high ground than space.

Fourth and lastly, I would tell you that it is about international security. What do I mean by that? Think with me for a moment, Mr. Speaker. When the world has a catastrophe, whether it is a hurricane, a tsunami, whether it is war or floods, pestilence, famine, whatever it is, when the world has a catastrophe and dials 911, who is it that answers? It is us, isn't it, with our military might.

We have to have a strong America. NASA ensures that we have a strong America. A strong America ensures that we have a safe world. When America is that strong, safe world leader militarily and in innovation, this world will be a safer place.

NASA is critical, Mr. Speaker, and so are the brave, innovative men and women of NASA, and they deserve a clear mission and a roadmap from the administration and from us, the United States Congress.

That is why I support this legislation. As a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I look forward to continue working to ensure that precious taxpayer resources at NASA are not wasted, but prioritized in support of NASA's core mission so that it can remain the world's premier space exploration agency.

I am RANDY WEBER. There you have it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for yielding.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, and to applaud the commitment made by my colleagues, Ranking Member EDWARDS and Chairman PALAZZO, to work so hard to find common ground on these complex issues.

The process of reauthorizing NASA's important research and exploration has historically been bipartisan, with space and the wonder it instills in our constituents unifying both sides of the aisle. Now, as budgets become tighter and we are evaluating Federal investments to find places to cut back, authorizing significant resources for NASA research and the operations that research supports has become more challenging.

When the markup process of the original NASA authorization bill began about a year ago, I joined several of my colleagues on the Science Committee to raise concerns about proposed cuts to important programs like NASA's Earth science research. I am pleased to see that important programs like Earth science, space technology, education, and environmental compliance are authorized in this legislation at levels that mirror their appropriation for fiscal year 2014.

As I have learned through my work on the Environment Subcommittee, bipartisan solutions are possible as long as both sides are committed to achieving an outcome and mindful of the impact that our efforts have on our constituents. Chairman PALAZZO and Ranking Member EDWARDS have embraced this spirit when drafting the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, and though the bill before us today might not be perfect, it is a positive step forward and worthy of our support.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for supporting the subcommittee leadership in their efforts to arrive at a bipartisan consensus. I know that Ms. EDWARDS and I both appreciate this approach to leadership, as do our constituents.

I encourage support for this important legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other individuals who wish to speak on this bill on this side. If the ranking member is willing to yield back her time, I am as well.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4412, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. 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 motion will be postponed.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1254) to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1254

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 ''Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note).

SEC. 3. INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA.

Section 603(a) is amended—

(1) by striking ''the following representatives from'' and inserting ''a representative from'';

(2) in paragraph (11), by striking ''and'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (13);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

''(12) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and''; and

(5) in paragraph (13), as redesignated, by striking ''such''.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA PROGRAM.

The Act is amended by inserting after section 603 the following:

''SEC. 603A. NATIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Under Secretary, acting through the Task Force, shall maintain and enhance a national harmful algal bloom and hypoxia program, including—

''(1) a statement of objectives, including understanding, detecting, predicting, controlling, mitigating, and responding to marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events; and

''(2) the comprehensive research plan and action strategy under section 603B.

''(b) PERIODIC REVISION.—The Task Force shall periodically review and revise the Program, as necessary.

''(c) TASK FORCE FUNCTIONS.—The Task Force shall—

''(1) coordinate interagency review of the objectives and activities of the Program;

''(2) expedite the interagency review process by ensuring timely review and dispersal of required reports and assessments under this title;

''(3) support the implementation of the Action Strategy, including the coordination and integration of the research of all Federal programs, including ocean and Great Lakes science and management programs and centers, that address the chemical, biological, and physical components of marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(4) support the development of institutional mechanisms and financial instruments to further the objectives and activities of the Program;

''(5) review the Program's distribution of Federal funding to address the objectives and activities of the Program;

''(6) promote the development of new technologies for predicting, monitoring, and mitigating harmful algal bloom and hypoxia conditions; and

''(7) establish such interagency working groups as it considers necessary.

''(d) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—Except as provided in subsection (h), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall have primary responsibility for administering the Program.

''(e) PROGRAM DUTIES.—In administering the Program, the Under Secretary shall—

''(1) promote the Program;

''(2) prepare work and spending plans for implementing the research and activities identified under the Action Strategy;

''(3) administer peer-reviewed, merit-based, competitive grant funding—

''(A) to maintain and enhance baseline monitoring programs established by the Program;

''(B) to support the projects maintained and established by the Program; and

''(C) to address the research and management needs and priorities identified in the Action Strategy;

''(4) coordinate with and work cooperatively with regional, State, tribal, and local government agencies and programs that address marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(5) coordinate with the Secretary of State to support international efforts on marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia information sharing, research, prediction, mitigation, control, and response activities;

''(6) identify additional research, development, and demonstration needs and priorities relating to monitoring, prevention, control, mitigation, and response to marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, including methods and technologies to protect the ecosystems affected by marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(7) integrate, coordinate, and augment existing education programs to improve public understanding and awareness of the causes, impacts, and mitigation efforts for marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(8) facilitate and provide resources to train State and local coastal and water resource managers in the methods and technologies for monitoring, preventing, controlling, and mitigating marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(9) support regional efforts to control and mitigate outbreaks through—

''(A) communication of the contents of the Action Strategy and maintenance of online data portals for other information about harmful algal blooms and hypoxia to State, tribal, and local stakeholders; and

''(B) overseeing the development, review, and periodic updating of the Action Strategy;

''(10) convene at least 1 meeting of the Task Force each year; and

''(11) perform such other tasks as may be delegated by the Task Force.

''(f) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—The Under Secretary shall—

''(1) maintain and enhance the existing competitive programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration relating to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(2) carry out marine and Great Lakes harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events response activities;

''(3) develop and enhance, including with respect to infrastructure as necessary, critical observations, monitoring, modeling, data management, information dissemination, and operational forecasts relevant to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events;

''(4) enhance communication and coordination among Federal agencies carrying out marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia activities and research;

''(5) to the greatest extent practicable, leverage existing resources and expertise available from local research universities and institutions; and

''(6) increase the availability to appropriate public and private entities of—

''(A) analytical facilities and technologies;

''(B) operational forecasts; and

''(C) reference and research materials.

''(g) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.—The Under Secretary shall work cooperatively and avoid duplication of effort with other offices, centers, and programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, other agencies on the Task Force, and States, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with marine and freshwater issues to coordinate harmful algal bloom and hypoxia (and related) activities and research.

''(h) FRESHWATER.—With respect to the freshwater aspects of the Program, the Administrator, through the Task Force, shall carry out the duties otherwise assigned to the Under Secretary under this section, except the activities described in subsection (f).

''(1) PARTICIPATION.—The Administrator's participation under this section shall include—

''(A) research on the ecology and impacts of freshwater harmful algal blooms; and

''(B) forecasting and monitoring of and event response to freshwater harmful algal blooms in lakes, rivers, estuaries (including their tributaries), and reservoirs.

''(2) NONDUPLICATION.—The Administrator shall ensure that activities carried out under this title focus on new approaches to addressing freshwater harmful algal blooms and are not duplicative of existing research and development programs authorized by this title or any other law.

''(i) INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM.—The collection of monitoring and observation data under this title shall comply with all data standards and protocols developed pursuant to the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). Such data shall be made available through the system established under that Act.''.

SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH PLAN AND ACTION STRATEGY.

The Act, as amended by section 4 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 603A the following:

''SEC. 603B. COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH PLAN AND ACTION STRATEGY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Under Secretary, through the Task Force, shall develop and submit to Congress a comprehensive research plan and action strategy to address marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. The Action Strategy shall identify—

''(1) the specific activities to be carried out by the Program and the timeline for carrying out those activities;

''(2) the roles and responsibilities of each Federal agency in the Task Force in carrying out the activities under paragraph (1); and

''(3) the appropriate regions and subregions requiring specific research and activities to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

''(b) REGIONAL FOCUS.—The regional and subregional parts of the Action Strategy shall identify—

''(1) regional priorities for ecological, economic, and social research on issues related to the impacts of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(2) research, development, and demonstration activities needed to develop and advance technologies and techniques for minimizing the occurrence of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia and improving capabilities to detect, predict, monitor, control, mitigate, respond to, and remediate harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(3) ways to reduce the duration and intensity of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, including deployment of response technologies in a timely manner;

''(4) research and methods to address human health dimensions of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(5) mechanisms, including the potential costs and benefits of those mechanisms, to protect ecosystems that may be or have been affected by harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events;

''(6) mechanisms by which data, information, and products may be transferred between the Program and the State, tribal, and local governments and research entities;

''(7) communication and information dissemination methods that State, tribal, and local governments may undertake to educate and inform the public concerning harmful algal blooms and hypoxia; and

''(8) roles that Federal agencies may have to assist in the implementation of the Action Strategy, including efforts to support local and regional scientific assessments under section 603(e).

''(c) UTILIZING AVAILABLE STUDIES AND INFORMATION.—In developing the Action Strategy, the Under Secretary shall utilize existing research, assessments, reports, and program activities, including—

''(1) those carried out under existing law; and

''(2) other relevant peer-reviewed and published sources.

''(d) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION STRATEGY.—In developing the Action Strategy, the Under Secretary shall, as appropriate—

''(1) coordinate with—

''(A) State coastal management and planning officials;

''(B) tribal resource management officials; and

''(C) water management and watershed officials from both coastal States and noncoastal States with water sources that drain into water bodies affected by harmful algal blooms and hypoxia; and

''(2) consult with—

''(A) public health officials;

''(B) emergency management officials;

''(C) science and technology development institutions;

''(D) economists;

''(E) industries and businesses affected by marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(F) scientists with expertise concerning harmful algal blooms or hypoxia from academic or research institutions; and

''(G) other stakeholders.

''(e) FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Under Secretary shall publish the Action Strategy in the Federal Register.

''(f) PERIODIC REVISION.—The Under Secretary, in coordination and consultation with the individuals and entities under subsection (d), shall periodically review and revise the Action Strategy prepared under this section, as necessary.''.

SEC. 6. REPORTING.

Section 603 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date the Action Strategy is submitted under section 603B, the Under Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that describes—

''(1) the proceedings of the annual Task Force meetings;

''(2) the activities carried out under the Program, including the regional and subregional parts of the Action Strategy;

''(3) the budget related to the activities under paragraph (2);

''(4) the progress made on implementing the Action Strategy; and

''(5) any need to revise or terminate research and activities under the Program.''.

SEC. 7. NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO HYPOXIA.

Section 604 is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 604. NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO HYPOXIA.

''(a) INITIAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, and biennially thereafter, the Administrator, through the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force, shall submit a progress report to the appropriate congressional committees and the President that describes the progress made by activities directed by the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force and carried out or funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and other State and Federal partners toward attainment of the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008.

''(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under this section shall—

''(1) assess the progress made toward nutrient load reductions, the response of the hypoxic zone and water quality throughout the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin, and the economic and social effects;

''(2) evaluate lessons learned; and

''(3) recommend appropriate actions to continue to implement or, if necessary, revise the strategy set forth in the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008.''.

SEC. 8. GREAT LAKES HYPOXIA AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.

Section 605 is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 605. GREAT LAKES HYPOXIA AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.

''(a) INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Task Force, in accordance with the authority under section 603, shall complete and submit to the Congress and the President an integrated assessment that examines the causes, consequences, and approaches to reduce hypoxia and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes, including the status of and gaps within current research, monitoring, management, prevention, response, and control activities by—

''(1) Federal agencies;

''(2) State agencies;

''(3) regional research consortia;

''(4) academia;

''(5) private industry; and

''(6) nongovernmental organizations.

''(b) PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Task Force shall develop and submit to the Congress a plan, based on the integrated assessment under subsection (a), for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The plan shall—

''(A) address the monitoring needs identified in the integrated assessment under subsection (a);

''(B) develop a timeline and budgetary requirements for deployment of future assets;

''(C) identify requirements for the development and verification of Great Lakes hypoxia and harmful algal bloom models, including—

''(i) all assumptions built into the models; and

''(ii) data quality methods used to ensure the best available data are utilized; and

''(D) describe efforts to improve the assessment of the impacts of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms by—

''(i) characterizing current and past biological conditions in ecosystems affected by hypoxia and harmful algal blooms; and

''(ii) quantifying effects, including economic effects, at the population and community levels.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the plan, the Task Force shall—

''(A) coordinate with State and local governments;

''(B) consult with representatives from academic, agricultural, industry, and other stakeholder groups, including relevant Canadian agencies;

''(C) ensure that the plan complements and does not duplicate activities conducted by other Federal or State agencies;

''(D) identify critical research for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia events and their effects;

''(E) evaluate cost-effective, incentive-based partnership approaches;

''(F) ensure that the plan is technically sound and cost effective;

''(G) utilize existing research, assessments, reports, and program activities;

''(H) publish a summary of the proposed plan in the Federal Register at least 180 days prior to submitting the completed plan to Congress; and

''(I) after submitting the completed plan to Congress, provide biennial progress reports on the activities toward achieving the objectives of the plan.''.

SEC. 9. APPLICATION WITH OTHER LAWS.

The Act is amended by adding after section 606 the following:

"SEC. 607. EFFECT ON OTHER FEDERAL AUTHORITY.

''(a) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this title supersedes or limits the authority of any agency to carry out its responsibilities and missions under other laws.

''(b) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this title may be construed as establishing new regulatory authority for any agency.''.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS; CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act, as amended by section 9 of this Act, is further amended by adding after section 607 the following:

"SEC. 608. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) ACTION STRATEGY.—The term 'Action Strategy' means the comprehensive research plan and action strategy established under section 603B.

''(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

''(3) HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM.—The term 'harmful algal bloom' means marine and freshwater phytoplankton that proliferate to high concentrations, resulting in nuisance conditions or harmful impacts on marine and aquatic ecosystems, coastal communities, and human health through the production of toxic compounds or other biological, chemical, and physical impacts of the algae outbreak.

''(4) HYPOXIA.—The term 'hypoxia' means a condition where low dissolved oxygen in aquatic systems causes stress or death to resident organisms.

''(5) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the national harmful algal bloom and hypoxia program established under section 603A.

''(6) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, any other territory or possession of the United States, and any Indian tribe.

''(7) TASK FORCE.—The term 'Task Force' means the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia under section 603(a).

''(8) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term 'Under Secretary' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

''(9) UNITED STATES COASTAL WATERS.—The term 'United States coastal waters' includes the Great Lakes.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 603(a) is amended by striking ''(hereinafter referred to as the 'Task Force')''.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Act is further amended by adding after section 608 the following:

"SEC. 609. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary to carry out sections 603A and 603B $20,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

''(b) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Under Secretary shall ensure that a substantial portion of funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) that are used for research purposes are allocated to extramural research activities. For each fiscal year, the Under Secretary shall publish a list of all grant recipients and the amounts for all of the funds allocated for research purposes, specifying those allocated for extramural research activities.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on S. 1254, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, reauthorizes oceanic and freshwater research activities. It also improves and streamlines existing activities at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies.

I want to thank Senator BILL NELSON of Florida and Senator ROB PORTMAN of Ohio for their work on this legislation.

Harmful algal blooms are a significant problem that affects rivers, lakes, and tidal areas around the country. Known most often as ''red tide,'' harmful algae hurts local economies that are dependent on fishing, recreation, and tourism.

Sometimes referred to as ''dead zones,'' hypoxia harms ecosystems in fish populations by decreasing oxygen levels in the water. Our current understanding and response to these problems is inadequate.

In my home State of Texas, red and brown tides often affect our bays and coastlines. This damages tourism, harms our fishing industry, and impacts public health.

This bill strengthens scientific research about these phenomena, fosters collaboration between Federal agencies, States, and localities, and advances technological solutions to better understand and respond to outbreaks when they occur.

This bipartisan legislation passed the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology by a unanimous voice vote last month.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) and our Environmental Subcommittee ranking member, Ms. BONAMICI from Oregon, for the bipartisan amendment they offered in committee to improve this legislation.

I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman SHUSTER for working with me to bring this legislation to the floor. I will insert our letters of exchange in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review the relevant provisions of the text of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, while the Committee on Natural Resources received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, and, accordingly, I agree to discharge S. 1254 from further consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources. I do so with the understanding that

by discharging the bill, the Committee on Natural Resources does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Natural Resources reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the bill report filed by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, as well as in the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013.

I agree that forgoing further action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters into the report filed on S. 1254. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Natural Resources as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning S. 1254, Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013, as ordered reported by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on May 21, 2014. S. 1254 contains provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring S. 1254 before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would request that you insert our exchange of letters on this matter into the committee report on S. 1254.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013.

I agree that forgoing further action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will insert this exchange into the report filed on S. 1254. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to clarify that the gentleman's motion is for the bill, as amended.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will re-report the title of the bill.

The Clerk re-reported the title of the bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014.

S. 1254 is a bipartisan bill, and I want to thank my colleagues, Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. POSEY, for their hard work to advance this important legislation. It authorizes an interagency program led by NOAA to improve our understanding and response to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events.

Unfortunately, over the past decade, the distribution and frequency of harmful algal blooms—or HABs—has increased steadily. Today, nearly every State is threatened by this toxic algae.

HABs can have serious economic and public health effects. Shellfish beds along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific coasts are often closed during a major event to protect the public from significant respiratory distress, shellfish poisoning, and other illnesses.

The economic impact these closures can have on the shellfish industry and tourism is quite large. A single event can cost a coastal community tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue.

While NOAA and the research community have made great strides since the establishment of this program, the need for continued research and tools to lessen the impact of these events is greater than ever before.

More accurate and efficient tools for detecting toxins, early warning of blooms, better predictions of bloom movement, methods for controlling outbreaks, and the development of local and regional partnerships will all allow for a more effective response.

For instance, in 2009, NOAA-funded scientists from Texas A&M University developed and deployed a sensor in Galveston Bay that can detect algae responsible for shellfish poisoning.

The sensor now provides an early warning to Texas State health officials, allowing them to temporarily close the bay to oyster harvesting. This early warning capability is a perfect example of how this program can minimize economic impacts and protect human health.

Addressing the many dimensions of HABs requires a coordinated multiagency approach, and passage of S. 1254 and the reauthorization of this program will result in practical and innovative approaches to addressing hypoxia and HABs events in U.S. waters.

The health of our coast and waterways is critical to our economy, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY), a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events occur throughout the United States. They are damaging to water bodies, and are harmful to plant and animal life. They also cost local communities millions of dollars and many hours of recreational enjoyment. The adverse effects are both near-term and long-term.

The continued need for advancing research on harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events is very apparent. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will continue robust funding for this important research, leading us to a better understanding of the causes, effects, and steps we can take to prevent harmful algae and hypoxia events in the future.

Reported to the floor with bipartisan support from the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, includes provisions that Representative BONAMICI and I were privileged to advance. As amended, this bill will better streamline and coordinate existing harmful algae bloom and hypoxia research activities at NOAA and other Federal agencies.

We place a high priority on using research to create implementable action plans to minimize the economic, ecologic, and human health impacts from harmful algae blooms.

By incorporating provisions to encourage collaborative research between local, State, and Federal agencies, we

will be able to avoid costly duplicative research, which will stretch every dollar further and significantly advance this important research.

In my congressional district, the Indian River Lagoon has experienced algae blooms each year from 2011 to 2013, leading to the loss of nearly half of all the sea grass beds—the primary means of measuring health in the Indian River Lagoon. Prior to 2011, sea grass beds in the lagoon had been on a steady increase for nearly 15 years. The devastating economic and ecologic impacts of these blooms over the past 3 years can be felt across the entire length of the 156-mile lagoon.

The economic impact of the Indian River Lagoon is approximately $3.5 billion. A healthy lagoon is vital to the economic well-being of the Treasure Coast and the Space Coast. I raised my family on the lagoon, so I can speak from personal experience about the changes we have seen and the benefits of our lagoon to our communities.

Our bill gives researchers another tool to help us better understand, anticipate, control, and mitigate harmful algal blooms like those we have seen in the Indian River Lagoon and in communities across the country.

I would like to thank Chairman SMITH and the majority and minority staff who worked together to shepherd this bill through committee. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Environmental Subcommittee, Ms. BONAMICI. It was a pleasure to work with you and your staff to make several bipartisan perfecting changes to the Senate bill so that this bipartisan measure can make it here to the House floor.

I would encourage my colleagues to support the bill before us so that we can reauthorize this important program and continue to advance this research that is so important for communities, like the coastal community I am privileged to live in and represent in Congress.

□ 1700

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. I thank the ranking member of the Science Committee for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation, and I am glad the House is considering it today. I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY), for his willingness to work with me on an amendment to S. 1254 that was adopted in committee and made some modifications to the legislation we are considering today.

I would also like to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. SMITH, and our ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON, for supporting us as we developed the amendment and moved the bill forward. This was truly a team effort, and our constituents are well served by this collaboration. I want to join Mr. POSEY, also, in thanking our staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this bill.

Authorization for the programs under the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act expired in 2012, so this reauthorization is long overdue. The rapid overproduction of algae can have devastating effects on aquatic plants and animals, as well as on human health.

For coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems and communities that depend on fishing and tourism to sustain their economies, the effect of algae blooms is a threat to their livelihood. The cost of these blooms has been estimated to be close to $82 million each year, a significant hit to the economy in areas that are still struggling to recover.

This issue was first brought to my attention by Oregon State University scientists and the crab industry in Oregon, where business was struggling when Dungeness crabs were dying because of low oxygen levels in the water, a hypoxic event caused by algal blooms.

I do want to stress, however, that the effect of these blooms is not only felt in coastal communities. Last year, in my home State of Oregon, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs experiencing hypoxic events were closed to protect public health for a combined total of more than 700 days.

Research has helped advance our understanding of and response to harmful algal blooms, but we need to continue to invest in this research. The frequency and duration of these events and subsequent hypoxic conditions are on the rise, and our constituents need us to act.

In order to equip ourselves with the tools we need to manage these events and reduce the environmental and economic damage they cause, we need to better understand how and why algal blooms occur and how they respond to a changing environment.

The bill before us today directs NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to develop and implement a national strategy that takes a regional approach to helping communities understand, predict, and mitigate harmful algal bloom and hypoxic events.

It will not only improve coordination, but also assess the program's activities to ensure that we are prepared for these events and are able to respond in an effective and efficient manner.

This will become increasingly important as coastal populations increase and changes in the environment, such as warmer water temperatures, have the potential to alter the growth, toxicity, and geographic distribution of algal blooms.

The stakeholder community has been calling for the reauthorization of this critical program, and they are eager to see NOAA continue its work on this important issue.

The amendment that Mr. POSEY and I included responds to a number of suggestions offered by our colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee, which has joint jurisdiction over these programs; and the amendment clarifies that the bill does not establish any new programs or regulatory authority.

The amendment also ensures that State and local governments, along with other stakeholder groups, are involved in efforts to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

Because freshwater ecosystems are also susceptible to HABs, the amendment makes certain that the plan also addresses harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events in the Great Lakes in a cost-effective and technically feasible manner.

NOAA researchers and the academic community have established a strong partnership to lead this effort, and I applaud their work. Now, Congress needs to reauthorize these important programs, so that work can continue; and this bill accomplishes that goal.

I urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1254, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2072) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2072

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 ''Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SEC. 3. ACCOUNTABILITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 712. Accountability of Secretary to Inspector General

''(a) LIST OF MANAGERS.—(1) If the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs determines that the Secretary has not appropriately responded with significant progress to a covered report by the date specified in the action plan of the Secretary developed in response to such covered report—

''(A) the Inspector General shall notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Secretary of such failure to appropriately respond; and

''(B) not later than 15 days after such notification, the Secretary shall submit to the Inspector General a list of the names of each responsible manager and the matter in the action plan for which the manager is responsible.

''(2) The Inspector General may not make public the names of responsible managers submitted under paragraph (1)(B).

''(b) PERFORMANCE OF RESPONSIBLE MANAGERS.—(1) The Secretary shall—

''(A) promptly notify each responsible manager of a covered issue by not later than seven days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the Inspector General the name of the manager under subsection (a)(1)(B);

''(B) direct such manager to resolve such issue; and

''(C) provide such manager with appropriate counseling and a mitigation plan with respect to resolving such issue.

''(2) The Secretary shall ensure that any performance review of a responsible manager includes an evaluation of whether the manager took appropriate actions during the period covered by the review to respond to the covered issue for which a request was made under subsection (a).

''(3) The Secretary may not pay to a responsible manager any bonus or award, including a performance award under section 5384 of title 5 if the covered issue for which a request was made under subsection (a) is unresolved.

''(c) ROLE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Any authority of the Inspector General provided under this section is in addition to any responsibility or authority provided to the Inspector General in the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App).

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'covered issue' means, with respect to a responsible manager, an issue described in a covered report for which the manager is or was responsible.

''(2) The term 'covered report' means a report by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs that recommends actions to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or other official or employee of the Department) to address an issue in the Department with respect to public health or safety.

''(3) The term 'responsible manager' means an individual who—

''(A) is an employee of the Department;

''(B) is or was responsible for an issue included in a covered report; and

''(C) in being so responsible, is or was employed in a management position, regardless of whether the employee is in the competitive civil service, Senior Executive Service, or other type of civil service.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 711 the following new item:

''712. Accountability of Secretary to Inspector General.''.

SEC. 4. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF VETERANS NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 1720 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h)(1) During the three-year period beginning on October 1, 2014, at the request of a veteran for whom the Secretary is required to provide nursing home care under section 1710A of this title, the Secretary may transfer the veteran to a medical foster home that meets Department standards, at the expense of the United States, pursuant to a contract or agreement entered into between the Secretary and the medical foster home for such purpose. A veteran who is transferred to a medical foster home under this subsection shall agree, as a condition of such transfer, to accept home health services furnished by the Secretary under section 1717 of this title.

''(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'medical foster home' means a home designed to provide non-institutional, long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to live independently and prefer a family setting.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 5. CONDITIONS ON THE AWARD OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING OR SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) CONDITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 2012(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a per diem payment may not be provided under this section to a grant recipient or eligible entity unless the entity submits to the Secretary an annual certification, approved or verified by the authority having jurisdiction or a qualified third party, as determined by the Secretary, that the facility where the entity provides housing or services for homeless veterans using grant funds is in compliance with codes relevant to the operations and level of care provided, including applicable provisions of the most recently published version of the Life Safety Code or International Building Code and International Fire Code (or such versions of such codes that have been adopted as State or local codes by the jurisdiction in which the facility is located), licensing requirements, fire and safety requirements, and any other requirements in the jurisdiction in which the facility is located regarding the condition of the facility and the operation of the entity providing such supportive housing or services. For purposes of this paragraph, if a facility where a grant recipient or eligible entity provides housing or services for homeless veterans using grant funds is located in a jurisdiction without relevant code requirements, the Secretary shall determine code and inspection requirements to be applied to the facility.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to an application for a per diem payment under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, submitted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 2065(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph (6):

''(6) The Secretary's evaluation of the safety and accessibility of facilities used to provide programs established by grant recipients or eligible entities under section 2011 and 2012 of this title, including the number of such grant recipients or eligible entities who have submitted a certification under section 2012(c)(1).''.

(c) TREATMENT OF CURRENT RECIPIENTS.—In the case of the recipient of a per diem payment under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, that receives such a payment during the year in which this Act is enacted, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require the recipient to submit the certification required under section 2012(c)(1) of such title, as amended by subsection (a)(1), by not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the recipient fails to submit such certification by such date, the Secretary may not make any additional per diem payments to the recipient under such section 2012 until the recipient submits such certification.

SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF LOAN GUARANTY FEE FOR CERTAIN SUBSEQUENT LOANS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking ''October 1, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2018''; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking ''October 1, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2018'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''October 1, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2018''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''October 1, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2018''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''October 1, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2018''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''October 1, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2018''.

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO OBTAIN CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY OR THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.

Section 5317 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2016'' and inserting ''May 31, 2017''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2072, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2072, as amended, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general—the IG—to determine whether appropriate action has been taken by the VA in response to an IG report concerning public health or patient safety.

It would require the IG to notify the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and the Secretary of any failure of VA to respond appropriately.

The bill would require the Secretary, following such notification, to report

the names of managers responsible for implementing the relevant action plan to the IG within 15 days and prohibit the IG from making such names public.

It would require the Secretary to promptly notify each responsible manager of an issue in a covered report, direct that responsible manager to resolve the issue, and provide such manager with counseling and a mitigation plan to resolve the issue.

It also would require the VA to include an evaluation of whether such manager took appropriate action to a covered report in his or her performance review, and it would prohibit the VA from paying a bonus or performance award to any responsible manager if an issue in a covered report is left unresolved.

Other provisions of the bill will authorize the VA for 3 years, beginning on October 1, 2014, to enter into a contract or agreement with certified medical foster homes to pay for long-term care for certain veterans already eligible for VA-paid nursing home care and require an eligible veteran to receive VA home health services as a component of such payment.

It would require per diem payment recipients under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program to provide VA with certification of compliance with all relevant fire, safety, and building codes; and it would allow entities already receiving grants or assistance under the program to submit such certification within 2 years of enactment, require the VA to determine the code requirement for a facility in a location without a code requirement, and also to determine how such facility would be inspected.

It would require VA to include an accounting and evaluation of the safety and accessibility of facilities used for homeless veterans in the annual report on assistance to homeless veterans.

It would also extend the current rate of certain VA housing loan guarantee funding fees from October 1, 2017, to October 1, 2018, and extend VA's authority to receive information from the Internal Revenue Service for pension income verification purposes from September 30, 2016, to May 31, 2017.

H.R. 2072, as amended, was reported out of the full committee last year with full support and is fully offset.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the Members who cosponsored the provisions in this bill, particularly Chairman MILLER and Representative DAVID MCKINLEY from West Virginia, who we will be hearing from shortly.

I also commend Chairman MILLER; Ranking Member MICHAUD; the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, JULIA BROWNLEY; and all the members of the Subcommittee on Health, for their hard work and leadership on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago today, our Nation commemorated Memorial Day in remembrance of the brave men and women throughout history who paid the ultimate price in defense of our freedoms.

One of the best ways we can honor these heroes is to ensure that their fellow servicemembers—those they fought side by side with—receive the best possible health care when they return home.

Unfortunately, it has become painfully clear that the VA is not only failing to reach the standard, they are not even coming close. It is a sad legacy that I have seen firsthand as a VA surgeon for 20 years.

From my first day on this committee, we have been working to identify the problems at VA and provide solutions for our veterans.

It has been more than a year since we on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee first began investigating delays in care and seeking answers, and it has been 2 months since public awareness of these problems took off, after CNN highlighted the tragedy in Phoenix, allegations which were first brought to light by the committee; yet we still cannot get clear answers from the VA and are still waiting for key VA officials to be held accountable.

I am sick and tired of these bureaucrats and undersecretaries coming before us to say: We know there's a problem, and we're working on it. We take this seriously. We're going to have a fix in a little while.

Yet there never seems to be a fix. Veterans are dying. The time for excuses and delays is long past. The time for action is now.

Two weeks ago, the VA IG released an interim report on the alleged negligence and mismanagement at the Phoenix VA health care system.

In that report, the IG states that they have issued reports to call attention to problems in analyzing critical data for almost a decade and called for a system to monitor VA's corrective action. That system is exactly what we are creating today.

No longer will VA officials be able to hide behind excuses. Instead, with this bill, we will take bold steps toward ending the culture of mismanagement and complacency at VA.

When the VA concurs with an inspector general's recommendation on an issue that needs to be fixed and, indeed, nothing happens, who was the person responsible for following through on that fix?

Why is the fact that they didn't reply to an IG report and stated via a VA concurrence that an action would be completed, not punished? Why are they still getting bonuses if they don't comply? Why are they getting promotions for not getting the job done?

Anywhere else in America, these questions would already have been answered, but not in bureaucracies like VA. The Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act will correct this injustice.

Let me be clear. I know the people that are providing direct patient care for our veterans—the nurses and the doctors—are good people who work hard, but their leadership has failed them, and it has failed our veterans, and it must stop now.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and, in doing so, take a needed step to ensure that responsible individuals are held accountable for correcting any lapses in care that impact the health and well-being of our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 2072, as amended, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act.

This legislation addresses a number of concerns that have arisen during hearings and other forums that we have conducted during this Congress.

Too often, we have seen inspector general reports that find the same problem time and time again at VA medical centers, but nothing seems to change.

Recommendations are made, solutions are identified, plans are made, but there is no followthrough. Problems aren't fixed, processes aren't changed, and problems reoccur several times over.

□ 1715

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general to determine whether appropriate action has been taken by the Department in response to a report concerning public health or patient safety; and if he determines it has not, it authorizes the VA IG to alert the Secretary and Congress. This authority will increase accountability and will, hopefully, get the actions needed for things to change.

H.R. 2072, as amended, also addresses medical foster homes. It authorizes the Department to enter into contracts with medical foster homes to pay for long-term care for veterans who are already eligible for VA-paid nursing home care. We know that many veterans prefer to be cared for in a homelike setting rather than in an institution. This provision gives them that option.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has many homeless programs, and I am proud to say that we have done a great job in reducing the number of homeless veterans by 50 percent. Buildings in which these homeless veterans receive services must be held to the highest standard concerning safety. This bill would require per diem payment recipients under the VA's Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program to provide the VA with a certification of compliance with all relevant fire, safety, and building codes.

It is our commitment—no, our obligation—to ensure that veterans receive the best care and treatment available. This is whether we are fighting homelessness, ensuring the safety and security of facilities, or ensuring that when

a problem and a solution are identified they get addressed.

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Indiana, Mrs. JACKIE WALORSKI, my colleague on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a member of the Subcommittee on Health.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act, a bill I am proud to cosponsor.

As the recent scandals at the VA have clearly demonstrated, better accountability and oversight are needed at the VA. This bill will actually help provide better accountability and oversight by ensuring that the VA inspector general recommendations are fully implemented by the VA.

Currently, after the VA inspector general investigates a VA facility, the inspector general releases a list of recommendations for what the VA must do to correct the problems identified during the investigation. Oftentimes, these recommendations are never fully implemented by the VA.

This bill will provide additional tools to ensure that the VA implements the IG recommendations.

Specifically, this bill requires the VA Secretary to determine exactly which employees within the VA are responsible for implementing the suggested changes. This bill prevents the employees who are charged with implementing those recommendations from receiving a bonus until the problems identified by the IG have been addressed. This bill also makes it easier to fire employees who are refusing or failing to implement those IG recommendations.

The VA's failure to fully implement IG recommendations has contributed to the mismanagement and corruption we are seeing in the VA today. Think about it. If the VA had done a better job of implementing the IG's corrective actions, maybe we wouldn't be hearing about the things we are hearing about today—falsified records, secret waiting lists, deaths due to negligence. Our veterans certainly deserve better.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in order to bring accountability to the VA and to protect the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. DAVID MCKINLEY, my colleague on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. MCKINLEY. I commend the chairman for bringing this bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2072.

I would specifically like to talk about section 5 of the bill, which is based on legislation I previously introduced, the Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act. This is a modification of a bill that passed the House in 2012.

Currently, there are over 2,100 shelters for homeless veterans across the country. Unfortunately, some of these structures have been found to be unsafe for habitation. From 2006 to 2010, more than 1,900 fires had been reported in these structures. In the last decade alone, nearly 200 residents have been lost in unsafe shelters.

How can this slip through the cracks?

The answer is that, currently, there is no law mandating that VA homeless shelters meet building codes. There is only a loosely defined policy that is not universally followed. As a licensed professional engineer, I find this to be a shocking omission in the law governing our veterans' homeless program funds. This bill would require any organization that seeks funding from the VA for services to homeless veterans to have documentation that the shelter meets or exceeds building codes.

As a nation, it should be unacceptable for us to allow homeless veterans to be housed in unsafe conditions. In defense of our country, these men and women were put in harm's way. They should not be in doubt about their own safety now that they are back in this country.

Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation that will ensure that our homeless veterans are in a safe environment while they work and struggle to get back to a normal life.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). The gentlewoman has 17 minutes remaining.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from New York (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of New York. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to speak in support of the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act, which I am proud to cosponsor.

You would think Congress wouldn't have to act to demand accountability from the VA on behalf of our veterans, but, sadly, as everyone knows, that is not the case with the current VA. The VA is supposed to provide service and benefits that all of our veterans have earned by protecting our freedom. Instead, what we have in too many cases is a bunch of bureaucrats in both Washington and in the local facilities who seem content to collect a paycheck and not serve the public.

Enough is enough.

The least we should expect is, when the inspector general issues a corrective action report about a public health or a patient safety problem, the VA employees would be held accountable for fixing it.

At the VA hospital in Buffalo, New York, which is right outside my district, the improper use of insulin pens resulted in some 700 veterans being potentially exposed to HIV and hepatitis. In this case, the IG issued a corrective action report. The public has every right to expect the VA to be held accountable for implementing a fix to make sure something like that never happens again. Without this legislation, we can't make that promise, and that is an insult to our veterans and to all Federal taxpayers.

This legislation also makes it easier to get rid of the bad apples at the VA so that issues with problem employees don't fester and overshadow the care being delivered by hardworking VA nurses and doctors.

Again, I want to thank Congressman BENISHEK for his work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to pass the bill.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, and I think they are worth repeating here today: the willingness with which our young men are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justifiable, should be directly proportionate as to how they perceive the veterans of early wars are treated and appreciated by their country.

I want everyone to know that I have been on this committee for 22 years. I am the longest-serving member on this committee, and I support the veterans 100 percent; but I remember in 2005 when the first servicemen started returning home and the Bush administration was underfunding the VA to the tune of $1.5 billion. Congress had to pass a supplemental funding bill to pay for this shortfall. Because the administration was using old data, which was taken before all of these veterans returned for care, the number was wrong, and the veterans paid the price. Following that, a Democratic-leaning Congress increased the VA's budget to its highest level ever in the history of the United States, guaranteeing that veterans' health care would not be subject to the whims of politics and to advance appropriations on Capitol Hill.

I know many people don't remember that, because sometimes it is like we don't have any institutional memory around here.

I want to commend Secretary Shinseki. He did a yeoman's job as the Secretary. When each Vietnam veteran had to prove his case, he opened up the VA so that all of the veterans could come in. Certainly, the VA wasn't prepared for millions of additional veterans, but it was the right thing to do.

I can tell you that I have done my reconnaissance and that we are not involved in any scandals in Florida. When we had a problem in the Miami hospital—and this is a service that we should give the Secretary the authority to do—two small projects had to be stopped because they combined into one project—the operating facility. We were able to get it amended and get it taken care of so that the veterans in the Miami hospital were being cared for. In Orlando, we have been working on that VA hospital for over 25 years—a long time. The VA has not built any hospitals until recently, and now we are building six new hospitals. We had not built a VA hospital in the Veterans Administration for 15 years.

Yes, we are coming together in Congress and are doing what we should do for the veterans. Let me point out that I support this bill, but this bill should go to every agency, because every single agency ignores the reports that come in. So, if we are going to do our oversight, we should do it with all of the agencies. We should not let veterans think that we are not doing what we need to do to take care of them. It should be, as I would say, one team and one fight. We should be fighting for the veterans. Ever since I have been on this committee, it has been all for the veterans. It hasn't been about the politics that go on—you did not fill out my report. The important thing is that we are taking care of the veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2072, as amended, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act, and, in turn, to support our veteran heroes.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2072, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 100) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 100

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on June 24, 2014, for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the significant impact the Act had on the Civil Rights movement. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of House Concurrent Resolution 100, authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

It is certainly fitting that we take pause and recognize the passage of this historic landmark legislation that was passed into law and the events in our Nation that called upon its leaders to act all those years ago.

The passage of the Civil Rights Act was a major step forward for America that finally allowed our great Nation to truly live up to its creed found in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal.

188 years following the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, 99 years after the conclusion of the Civil War, and after decades of struggle by great leaders like Martin Luther King and so many Americans who fought valiantly, broad bipartisan majorities of both Houses of Congress came together to ensure equality for every American.

The passage of the Civil Rights Act was a very proud moment for the House of Representatives because America faced a time of choosing in 1964, and together, our Congress rallied and voted to strengthen individual protections and rights, and voted to end discrimination and segregation 50 years ago.

The Civil Rights Act still remains one of the most important pieces of legislation that has ever been debated in our Chamber and instituted across our great Nation, not only for people of color or different nations of origin, but for each and every American, regardless of gender or socioeconomic status or their religious background.

Our Nation has a very vibrant and rich history, and that moment, 50 years ago, when many different people of various walks of life joined together and, in one voice, called for equality stands as one of the most monumental in our history.

Our Nation stood as a witness to those who led and participated in civil rights protests such as the March on Washington, sit-ins at lunch counters, and maintaining one's seat on a bus and refusing to move solely based on one's color of one's skin.

Fifty years ago, so many risked prison or worse to overcome huge odds and stand for what they truly believed must be changed. Their contributions reverberated across every State and every town and every home. Many took up roles as spokespersons, using their talents or what was available to them to make peaceful statements. Several have joined this Chamber as Members.

I see JOHN LEWIS has joined us today, and I am just very proud to be able to serve with a man of his historic background and distinguished service to our Nation, Mr. Speaker.

These people were pillars, absolutely pillars of strength. They used their courage to meet injustice head-on, and they are memorialized in the history that we carry forward. The actions of those individuals called on every citizen of our Nation to recognize and to listen to the struggles of others and to support the call for a change to our laws.

So many individuals from all walks of life rose up and lifted their voices to add to the call for change in our Nation, and they stood for all of those who were to come after them in the next generation and for the betterment of their lives.

They brought their concerns to the forefront of our political stage and they spoke for all of us, men, women, rich or poor.

In my home State of Michigan, Mr. Speaker, we were blessed to have so many great leaders in this movement, but one of those individuals was truly a civil rights icon who became a treasured member of our community. Rosa Parks inspired countless Americans with her grace, her dignity and strength, and through the simple yet profound act of refusing to give up her seat on a bus, she continued her advocacy for equality and freedom and inspired so many others who have carried the cause for individual rights forward to this very day.

She also has a connection to this House with another Member of Congress as well, a Michigan colleague of mine, JOHN CONYERS, who was also a recognized leader in the civil rights movement.

As we mark this 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, we remember the

efforts, the struggles, and the achievement of those who stood for equal rights. They saw to it that America will make good on its promise for every individual to obtain justice, freedom, and equality.

It is certainly fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the House and the Senate join together later this month to formally remember and pay tribute to our Nation's civil rights attaining this milestone.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairwoman for the support. It is very much appreciated.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 100, which authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The passing of the bill that became the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a critical turning point in the history of this Nation, prohibiting all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

This significant law also ensured that the promise of equal protection under the law would be true for all Americans.

Millions of Americans faced violent opposition to ensure that the Civil Rights Act was brought before Members of the House and the Senate for a vote.

During what was one of the most turbulent times in this Nation, a time when discrimination was commonplace and segregation was an accepted norm, passing this law was a true bipartisan effort, with Members of both parties overcoming their differences to do what was best for this Nation.

If passed, H. Con. Res. 100 would allow the use of the Capitol rotunda to recognize the courageous efforts made by former Members of this House to pass the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, and will honor civil rights and community leaders who dedicated their lives to see this bill become a reality and be signed into law by the President of the United States, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

I urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 100, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the assistant Democratic leader of the House.

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative MARCIA FUDGE, for yielding time to me on this important resolution. I also want to commend her for her leadership on this initiative to pay appropriate commemoration to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Prior to my first election to the House of Representatives, I served in the State government of my native State, South Carolina, in an office charged with administering this landmark legislative achievement.

We, in South Carolina, effectively used provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to enforce fair employment practices. That instrument has had tremendously positive impact on the working men and women of my State and across the country.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, along with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Law of 1968, and other initiatives embody the ideals upon which this Nation was founded.

I had the opportunity to expound on this notion at some length when I spoke in Dayton, Ohio, in 1985 as president of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies. At that time I spoke these words:

> We are an experimental Nation toying with the idea of individual rights as opposed to collective control and tyranny. So far, the experiment has worked, no doubt to the surprise of many who witnessed its birth over 200 years ago.
>
> It is interesting to speculate why not only has the Nation survived, but also its ideals and principals. Let me hazard a few guesses as to why America and its ideals have worked over all these years. First of all, I do not believe America is perfect. Neither did the Founding Fathers of the Nation. No sooner had our Constitution been written than the first ten amendments were presented and adopted. They were called the Bill of Rights, and we can all be thankful that they were included in the package.

I continued on that day:

> Americans have never tried to conceal or ignore their imperfections. For the most part, they have tried to recognize and correct them. When the enslavement of a race of people created a conflict which threatened the very foundation of our Constitution, the Nation went to war with itself to resolve the conflict and ensure the integrity and sovereignty of the Constitution. And, a century later, when it was found that discrimination still prevented millions of Americans from participating as full-fledged citizens, our Nation moved to correct the flaw with wide-ranging civil rights legislation.

This bill that we commemorate today was one of them:

> Now, while it is common to say that no nation in the history of the world has granted more individual freedom, it is just as valid to say that no nation has ever tried harder to correct the flaws and impediments in its system. We are still imperfect, and we are still trying to live up to the principles to which the Constitution has committed us. The important message is that this Nation has never stopped trying, and we would do well not to stop now.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, too many in this country hold the view that the flaws in the system are not worth fixing or no longer need attention. Too often, the view is advanced that the civil rights movement and all of its achievements are things of the past.

I strongly disagree with that view. The work of securing a more perfect Union is never completed. The struggle continues.

I want to thank Chair FUDGE for her leadership on this resolution to commemorate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the rotunda of the Capitol.

□ 1745

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed and privileged to work with many great people in this House. You have just heard from one, the assistant leader who is our historian and has been an activist in many, many ways throughout his life.

I now want to yield to someone who all of us consider an icon, as was referenced by the chairwoman earlier. It is, indeed, an honor to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, my good friend who is the face and voice for so many of the civil rights movement.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the esteemed chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for her hard work, for her leadership on this resolution, and for her kind words.

I would also like to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for her kind words and for her leadership. The two of them have never given up or given in and have kept the faith, and for that, I thank them so much.

I would also like to thank the Speaker and our friends on both sides of the aisle for helping to bring this resolution to the floor.

I am glad to be on the floor with the gentleman from South Carolina, JIM CLYBURN, who I met more than 50 years ago at an organizer meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, when we both were very young, first for the sit-ins, when we both had all of our hair.

To be here with the gentleman from South Carolina today, if someone had told me then that the two of us would be sitting here in the Congress, I would say: you are crazy, you are out of your mind, you don't know what you are talking about.

Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. This bipartisan effort outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The following year, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. It was a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, if you visit my office in the Cannon Building, you will see both Democrats and Republicans standing together. You will see me standing with Members of the Senate. One man I will never forget, the Republican leader Everett Dirksen, helped make it possible to get the bill passed.

Too many people I knew and loved lost their lives in the fight for civil rights and simple justice. Every single

day, each and every one of us must remember the heroes—average men, women, and children—who put their lives on the line in the fight for equality.

We cannot forget their sacrifice, and we must not ignore the lessons of history. When we come together across party lines, from different races, religions, and regions, we can achieve the greater good.

I hope and pray that we will come together again—Democrats and Republicans, of all faiths, colors, and regions—to pass laws that maintain, protect, and strengthen rights for which many gave their ultimate sacrifice.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan, the gentlewoman from Ohio, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their strong support of this resolution.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to say that the gentleman from Georgia, Representative LEWIS, mentioned the term ''heroes.'' He truly is a hero, an American hero, a treasure.

In the 12 years I have been honored to be a Member of Congress, anytime I hear him come to the floor and talk about civil rights, someone who has actually lived it, I wish I could take him home and have him talk to groups of schoolchildren, and I know he does that in his own district and around the country.

Because every time the gentleman from Georgia, as well as Representative CLYBURN and so many others come to this floor to talk about the civil rights movement, it really is very moving, and it makes us all think about, before we are anything, we are Americans first, and he truly is a hero.

I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, there are just some things that are inherently American. They are truth and freedom and justice, doing what is best for our Nation.

I know that we have disagreements, we have differences, but today, we stand together as one House, and I thank the chairwoman for allowing that to happen again.

Again, I urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 100, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly urge all of my colleagues, as well, to support this resolution, which will authorize the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol Building for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 100.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO NEXT OF KIN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE NEXT OF KIN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on July 9, 2014, for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the concurrent resolution, permitting the use of the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

The issuing of the Congressional Gold Medal is in recognition and in honor of this individual's heroism and selfless humanitarian actions.

Raoul Wallenberg was born on August 4, 1912, in Sweden; and in 1931, Mr. Wallenberg attended college in my home State of Michigan, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In the years that followed his graduating at the top of his class in architecture, he quickly established himself in business in his home nation of Sweden, and like so many others, then he also witnessed the ever-growing threats coming from Germany.

At the age of 32, Mr. Wallenberg was recruited by the U.S. War Refugee Board, a board that was established by then-President Roosevelt and whose mission was to rescue the Jewish from occupied territories and to provide relief to those sent to concentration camps.

Mr. Wallenberg later became known as an individual who led one of the War Refugee Board's most extensive operations.

Mr. Wallenberg was given status as a Swedish diplomat and traveled to Hungary in the summer of 1944, a few months after Nazi forces occupied that nation.

Sweden was a neutral country; and, therefore, Nazi forces or the complying Hungarian authorities could not easily arrest or otherwise harm Swedish citizens. This enabled Mr. Wallenberg to save tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from concentration camps.

Shortly following Nazi occupation, the rounding up of Hungarian Jews and their transference into Nazi custody began. When Mr. Wallenberg arrived in Budapest that summer, the Nazis had already deported nearly 444,000 Hungarian Jews, with almost all of them being sent to the Auschwitz or Birkenau killing centers.

We now know that the SS killed approximately 320,000 of these individuals upon arrival and used the rest as forced labor. When Mr. Wallenberg made it to Budapest, only about 200,000 Jews remained in the city, but there were plans made by the Hungarian authorities under Nazi rule to deport those as well.

Provided with diplomatic credentials and the authorization from the Swedish Government, Mr. Wallenberg took heroic action to save as many of these individuals and families as he could by creating and distributing protective Swedish certificates.

Through the War Refugee Board and assistance from Sweden, Mr. Wallenberg was able to use funds to set up hospitals, nurseries, a soup kitchen, and dozens of safe houses for the Jewish of Budapest. These safe houses actually formed the international ghetto, holding some of the same protective Swedish certificates that Wallenberg handed out.

Faced with the further breakdown of the Hungarian Government and increased Nazi control, deportations of the Jewish population resumed; but this time, the authorities decided to force tens of thousands to march toward Austria, due to the railroad being cut off by the Soviet troops.

That fall, Mr. Wallenberg personally worked to stop the further deportation

of many by securing the release of those who had already had some of the same protection certificates that he had worked to distribute, and he was able to help them return to safe houses within the city.

Mr. Wallenberg was not alone. He worked with many of his colleagues and other diplomats who participated in the same types of rescue operations and issued their own neutral countries' protective certificates to Jewish people and found ways to house them.

By the end of 1944, Mr. Wallenberg and others were able to keep the authorities from destroying the ghetto and the individuals who resided there.

By the beginning of 1945, Soviet forces came to Budapest and liberated the city in February. More than 100,000 Jewish people remained.

But what happened to Mr. Wallenberg, like so many others during this time, is unknown. Mr. Wallenberg was last seen in Soviet custody, and it is thought he may have died in prison.

Mr. Speaker, the end of Mr. Wallenberg's life remains a mystery, but the life that he led and especially the actions he took while living in Budapest for those 6 months and saving as many as so many innocents are forever, forever remembered.

Raoul Wallenberg is a hero, not just for those who were in Budapest at that time, but a hero that the world remembers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wallenberg's memory lives on and serves as the best kind of reminder for what it means to serve and accomplish the greater good for all of humanity, and it is certainly fitting that we gather, as a Congress, in the rotunda of the United States Capitol, to formally remember and pay tribute to this man, a man who used the tools he was given to work tirelessly for the lives of others, a man who did so much, even at his own peril.

Awarding Mr. Wallenberg the Congressional Gold Medal is the very least that we can do as a grateful Nation and as a grateful member of the world.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 36. Few people in history have shown the sort of bravery for which we will be honoring Raoul Wallenberg.

As Sweden's special envoy to Hungary during the Second World War, Mr. Wallenberg quietly issued thousands—and I say thousands—of protective passports and sheltered as many Jews as he could in Swedish Embassy buildings, protecting them from being rounded up by the Fascist authorities. It is estimated that his efforts saved potentially up to 100,000 Jews from the horrors of the Holocaust.

Sadly, as the gentlewoman from Michigan pointed out, Mr. Wallenberg would never see the impact of his great work. As the Iron Curtain descended on Eastern Europe, he was apprehended by Soviet authorities, never to be seen again; but if not for his commitment to the protection of human rights, untold thousands would not be among us today.

One of the lives that he saved was that of our former colleague, Congressman Tom Lantos, who wrote the bill making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States in 1981.

In 2012, we posthumously awarded Raoul Wallenberg the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust. This resolution will allow the use of the rotunda for a ceremony presenting the Gold Medal to his family in honor of Mr. Wallenberg for his noble and selfless actions.

I urge all Members to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 36, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as well, I would urge all of my colleagues to support S. Con. Res. 36, which is a resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 36.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MORTGAGE CHOICE ACT OF 2013

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3211) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3211

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 ''Mortgage Choice Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF POINTS AND FEES.

(a) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 103 OF TILA.—Section 103(bb)(4) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602(bb)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''paragraph (1)(B)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(A) and section 129C'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by inserting ''and insurance'' after ''taxes'';

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting '', except as retained by a creditor or its affiliate as a result of their participation in an affiliated business arrangement (as defined in section 2(7) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2602(7))'' after ''compensation''; and

(C) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

''(iii) the charge is—

''(I) a bona fide third-party charge not retained by the mortgage originator, creditor, or an affiliate of the creditor or mortgage originator; or

''(II) a charge set forth in section 106(e)(1);''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking ''accident,''; and

(B) by striking ''or any payments'' and inserting ''and any payments''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 129C OF TILA.—Section 129C of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5)(C), by striking ''103'' and all that follows through ''or mortgage originator'' and inserting ''103(bb)(4)''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(C)(i), by striking ''103'' and all that follows through ''or mortgage originator)'' and inserting ''103(bb)(4)''.

SEC. 3. RULEMAKING.

Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall issue final regulations to carry out the amendments made by this Act, and such regulations shall be effective upon issuance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 3211, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3211, the Mortgage Choice Act. As someone who worked in the housing industry for a number of years, this is a very important issue to me, and, more importantly, to my constituents in Michigan as well as, frankly, all of our constituents across the country.

Earlier this year, the Qualified Mortgage, also known as the (QM)/Ability to Repay Rule, as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act went into effect. The QM rule is the primary means for mortgage lenders to satisfy their ''ability to repay'' requirements.

Additionally, Dodd-Frank provides that a QM may not have points and fees in excess of 3 percent of the loan amount. As currently defined, points and fees include, among other charges:

One, fees paid to affiliated, but not unaffiliated, title companies; two, salaries paid to loan originators; three, amounts of insurance and taxes held in escrow; four, loan level price adjustments; and number five, payments by lenders to corresponding banks as they

interact with them, credit unions, and mortgage brokers in wholesale transactions—not in any kind of retail transaction.

As a result of this confusing and problematic definition, many affiliated loans, particularly those made to low and moderate-income borrowers, would not qualify as QMs and would be unlikely to be made or would only be made available at much higher rates due to heightened liability risks. Consumers would lose the ability to take advantage of the convenience and the market efficiencies offered by one-stop shopping.

I, along with Representative GREGORY MEEKS, introduced H.R. 3211, a strong, bipartisan bill that would modify and clarify the ways points and fees are calculated. I should note, Mr. Speaker, that of our nine original cosponsors, two of them were Republicans, seven of them were Democrats, and we are very pleased that this has seen wide and broad support.

This legislation is narrowly focused to promote access to affordable mortgage credit without overturning the important consumer protections and sound underwriting required under Dodd-Frank's ''ability to repay'' provisions.

Specifically, my bill, H.R. 3211, would provide equal treatment for affiliated title fees compared with unaffiliated title fees. What that means is, for companies that are owned and integrated in, those same requirements and same designations would apply to those who are totally separate and independent companies. It also would clarify the treatment of insurance and taxes held in escrow. Now think about that. We are talking about taxes that no one makes a profit off of, that just literally get sent to the government, being counted in this points and fees definition. That, to me, just seems fundamentally unfair. And only—again, I might add—if they are an affiliated company versus an unaffiliated company.

These commonsense changes will promote access to affordable mortgage credit for low and moderate-income families and first-time home buyers by ensuring that safer, properly underwritten mortgages pass the QM test.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative MEEKS, along with many others, who have worked tirelessly to help fix this flawed provision currently being implemented.

Mr. Speaker, this evening, Congress has the opportunity to help more Americans realize a portion of the American Dream, not by some grandiose law or decree or something that is going to be big, but by simply reforming a burdensome regulation. Homeownership has been a pillar in American life for generations. Tonight, we can reaffirm that pillar and reassert that homeownership can and should be an attainable goal.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 3211 and make the dreams of so many Americans a reality by ensuring that all consumers have greater access to mortgage credit and more choices to credit providers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Representative HUIZENGA on this very, very important bill.

This legislation is about two things: fairness and opportunity. My fellow cosponsors—both Democrats and Republicans—and I support H.R. 3211, which is the Mortgage Choice Act, because of our shared concern about access; access to credit, yes, for all consumers, but especially for lower-income consumers and middle-income consumers, and to ensure that everybody in America that needs a home and wants a home, when securing a loan, that they have a choice in selecting both the mortgage and the title insurance providers of their choice.

I urge my colleagues to support this needed legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, but I, too, would like to thank my friend, Mr. SCOTT from Georgia, for working with Representative MEEKS to bring this to the forefront. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for the Mortgage Choice Act. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on this important bill.

Owning a home has long been the cornerstone of the American Dream, but regulations are currently restricting consumer access to mortgage credit for low and moderate income homebuyers. The Mortgage Choice Act will ensure that potential homeowners can borrow funds for their home in a responsible manner while keeping intact consumer protections established by Dodd-Frank's ability to pay provisions.

I urge passage of this bill today. This is a legislative initiative that merits strong bipartisan support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3211.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1679) to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1679

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. APPLICATION OF THE EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Expedited Funds Availability Act (12 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 602(20) (12 U.S.C. 4001(20)) by inserting '', located in the United States,'' after ''ATM'';

(2) in section 602(21) (12 U.S.C. 4001(21)) by inserting ''American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,'' after ''Puerto Rico,'';

(3) in section 602(23) (12 U.S.C. 4001(23)) by inserting ''American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,'' after ''Puerto Rico,''; and

(4) in section 603(d)(2)(A) (12 U.S.C. 4002(d)(2)(A)), by inserting ''American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,'' after ''Puerto Rico,''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials in the RECORD on H.R. 1679, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also thank my colleague, Delegate FALEOMAVAEGA, for introducing this bill. This bill makes a technical change to clarify that the Expedited Funds Availability Act applies to banks located in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the other 50 States and contiguous States. It was an inadvertent error that these territories were not included in this act. This legislation remedies this error.

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

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our Financial Services Committee simply amends the Expedited Funds Availability Act to apply it to American Samoa. Essentially, it does just these few things. It extends by 2 business days for American Samoa any time periods established for large or redeposited checks, repeated overdraft, reasonable cause, or other emergency exceptions to the 30-day funds availability requirements for deposits in a depository institution account by a new depositor.

It also applies this 2-day extension to any deposit in an account at a depository institution located in American

Samoa by a check drawn on an originating depository institution which is not located in the same State as the receiving depository institution.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) who has worked tirelessly on this effort and deserves so much credit for his sterling leadership.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1679, as amended, a bill to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that act to American Samoa and to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a bipartisan effort, and I want to thank Chairman JEB HENSARLING and Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS of the Committee on Financial Services for bringing this legislation on the floor today. I also want to thank my good friend, Congressman KILILI SABLAN, for his support of this bill. And I would be remiss if I did not also express my appreciation to the subcommittee chairman of our Financial Services Committee, Congresswoman SHELLEY CAPITO, and Ranking Member GREGORY MEEKS for their efforts in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is important because it will not only improve the current banking system in both territories, but it will also allow our constituents quicker access to their funds.

I introduced this legislation last year because one of our only two banks in the territory was scheduled to close all of its branches for good. In working together with Governor Lolo and many stakeholders in delaying the bank's departure, we learned that there was a systematic delay in access to funds for bank customers in American Samoa.

H.R. 1679 will fix this delay and will put American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in line with the schedule of availability of funds that are already required of banks in all States and other territories under regulation CC.

Under regulation CC, banks in the U.S. mainland and certain territories are required to make funds available for consumer use for in-State checks no later than the second business day after the check is deposited. Out-of-State checks can be held up to 5 business days before funds can be released. Banks in Hawaii, Alaska, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico may, at their discretion, hold out-of-State checks for an extra day.

This is not the same for American Samoa. Checks can be held for an intermittent and undetermined amount of time, even up to 21 days, before funds are available for the consumer to have access. This is unfair for my constituents and has a direct and indirect impact on our local economy.

For the record, I do not hold the banks at fault, but given the trend of electronic banking and quicker access to mailing services, I feel that they are able to provide quicker and better services for their customers.

Again, I thank Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member WATERS, and their staff for their work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, with that, I would just like, again, to congratulate Delegate FALEOMAVAEGA for his leadership on this, and I am glad that we could get this done. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1679, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1679, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1815

DHS ACQUISITION ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4228) to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4228

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 ''DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. Findings.
Sec. 4. Definitions.
Sec. 5. Prohibition on additional authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES

Sec. 101. Acquisition authorities for Under Secretary for Management.
Sec. 102. Acquisition authorities for Chief Financial Officer.
Sec. 103. Acquisition authorities for Chief Information Officer.
Sec. 104. Chief Procurement Officer.
Sec. 105. Requirements to ensure greater accountability for acquisition programs.

TITLE II—ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINE

Sec. 201. Acquisition Review Board.
Sec. 202. Requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.
Sec. 203. Government Accountability Office review of Board and of requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.
Sec. 204. Excluded Party List System waivers.
Sec. 205. Inspector General oversight of suspension and debarment.

TITLE III—ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 301. Congressional notification and other requirements for major acquisition program breach.
Sec. 302. Multiyear acquisition strategy.
Sec. 303. Acquisition reports.
Sec. 304. Government Accountability Office review of multiyear acquisition strategy.
Sec. 305. Office of Inspector General report.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Department of Homeland Security does not consistently implement its policies and Government and private sector best practices for acquisitions and procurement.

(2) It is difficult to determine the cost of the Department's major acquisition programs because the Department has not provided consistent, comparable updates on an annual basis. As of January 2014, the Department identified over 80 major acquisition programs costing over $300,000,000, and, based on 2011, estimates it plans to spend about $170,000,000,000 in the future on major acquisition programs.

(3) Since 2005, the Government Accountability Office has placed Department acquisition management activities on its ''High-Risk List'', which identifies Government operations that have greater susceptibility to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or greater need for transformation to address economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges.

(4) While the Department has taken actions to address some high-risk acquisition program management issues, many programs continue to experience challenges with funding instability, workforce shortfalls, reliable cost estimates, realistic schedules, agreed-upon baseline objectives, and consistent and reliable data needed to accurately measure program performance.

(5) Of the 77 Department major acquisition programs in 2011, the Government Accountability Office identified 42 programs that experienced cost growth, schedule slips, or both. The Department reported that the magnitude of the cost growth for 16 of the 42 programs, which increased from almost $20,000,000,000 to over $50,000,000,000 in 2011, had an aggregate increase of 166 percent.

(6) In 2012, the Government Accountability Office found that only 20 of 63 programs had

Department-approved acquisition program baselines. The Government Accountability Office also reported that the Department planned to spend more than $105 billion on programs lacking acquisition program baselines.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEES.—The term ''congressional homeland security committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and of the Senate.

(b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ''acquisition'' has the meaning provided in section 131 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) BEST PRACTICES.—The term ''best practices'', with respect to acquisition, means a knowledge-based approach to capability development that includes identifying and validating needs; assessing alternatives to select the most appropriate solution; clearly establishing well-defined requirements; developing realistic cost assessments and schedules; securing stable funding that matches resources to requirements; demonstrating technology, design, and manufacturing maturity; using milestones and exit criteria or specific accomplishments that demonstrate progress; adopting and executing standardized processes with known success across programs; establishing an adequate workforce that is qualified and sufficient to perform necessary functions; and integrating these capabilities into the Department's mission and business operations.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS IN HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by striking ''In this Act,'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act,'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(2)''; and

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

''(B) The term 'congressional homeland security committees' means—

''(i) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

''(ii) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, where appropriate.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) ACQUISITION-RELATED DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following definitions apply:

''(1) ACQUISITION.—The term 'acquisition' has the meaning provided in section 131 of title 41, United States Code.

''(2) ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—The term 'acquisition decision authority' means the authority, held by the Secretary acting through the Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary for Management—

''(A) to ensure compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives;

''(B) to review (including approving, halting, modifying, or cancelling) an acquisition program through the life cycle of the program;

''(C) to ensure that program managers have the resources necessary to successfully execute an approved acquisition program; and

''(D) to ensure good program management of cost, schedule, risk, and system performance of the acquisition, including assessing acquisition program baseline breaches and directing any corrective action for such breaches.

''(3) ACQUISITION DECISION EVENT.—The term 'acquisition decision event', with respect to an investment or acquisition program, means a predetermined point within the acquisition phases of the investment or acquisition program at which the investment or acquisition program will undergo a review prior to commencement of the next phase.

''(4) ACQUISITION DECISION MEMORANDUM.—The term 'acquisition decision memorandum', with respect to an acquisition, means the official acquisition decision event record that includes a documented record of decisions, exit criteria, and assigned actions for the acquisition as determined by the person exercising acquisition decision authority for the acquisition.

''(5) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The term 'acquisition program baseline', with respect to an acquisition program, means a summary of the cost, schedule, and performance parameters, expressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms, which must be met in order to accomplish the goals of the program.

''(6) CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—The term 'capability development plan', with respect to a proposed acquisition, means the document that the Acquisition Review Board approves for the first acquisition decision event related to validating the need of a proposed acquisition.

''(7) COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE.—The term 'Component Acquisition Executive' means the senior acquisition official within a Component who is designated in writing by the Under Secretary for Management, in consultation with the Component head, with authority and responsibility for leading a process and staff to provide acquisition and program management oversight, policy, and guidance to ensure that statutory, regulatory, and higher level policy requirements are fulfilled, including compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives established by the Under Secretary for Management.

''(8) LIFE CYCLE COST.—The term 'life cycle cost', with respect to an acquisition program, means all costs associated with research, development, procurement, operation, integrated logistics support, and disposal under the program, including supporting infrastructure that plans, manages, and executes the program over its full life, and costs of common support items incurred as a result of the program.

''(9) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term 'major acquisition program' means a Department acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least $300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2014 constant dollars) over its life cycle cost.''.

SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act. This Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

TITLE I—ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES

SEC. 101. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''Procurement'' and inserting ''Acquisition and procurement''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) ACQUISITION AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1702(b) of title 41, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Management is the Chief Acquisition Officer of the Department. As Chief Acquisition Officer, the Under Secretary shall have the authority and perform the functions as specified in section 1702(b) of such title, and perform all other functions and responsibilities delegated by the Secretary or described in this subsection.

''(2) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the authority and functions specified in section 1702(b) of title 41, United States Code, the duties and responsibilities of the Under Secretary for Management related to acquisition include the following:

''(A) Advising the Secretary regarding acquisition management activities, taking into account risks of failure to achieve cost, schedule, or performance parameters, to ensure that the Department achieves its mission through the adoption of widely accepted program management best practices and standards.

''(B) Exercising the acquisition decision authority to approve, halt, modify (including the rescission of approvals of program milestones), or cancel major acquisition programs, unless the Under Secretary delegates the authority to a Component Acquisition Executive pursuant to paragraph (3).

''(C) Establishing policies for acquisition that implement an approach that takes into account risks of failure to achieve cost, schedule, or performance parameters that all Components of the Department shall comply with, including outlining relevant authorities for program managers to effectively manage acquisition programs.

''(D) Ensuring that each major acquisition program has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline.

''(E) Ensuring that the heads of Components and Component Acquisition Executives comply with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives.

''(F) Ensuring that grants and financial assistance are provided only to individuals and organizations that are not suspended or debarred.

''(G) Distributing guidance throughout the Department to ensure that contractors involved in acquisitions, particularly companies that access the Department's information systems and technologies, adhere to internal cybersecurity policies established by the Department of Homeland Security.

''(3) DELEGATION OF ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—

''(A) LEVEL 3 ACQUISITIONS.—The Under Secretary for Management may delegate acquisition decision authority in writing to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive for an acquisition program that has a life cycle cost estimate of less than $300,000,000.

''(B) LEVEL 2 ACQUISITIONS.—The Under Secretary for Management may delegate acquisition decision authority in writing to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive for a major acquisition program that has a life cycle cost estimate of at least $300,000,000 but not more than $1,000,000,000 if all of the following requirements are met:

''(i) The Component concerned possesses working policies, processes, and procedures that are consistent with Department-level acquisition policy.

''(ii) The Component Acquisition Executive has adequate, experienced, dedicated program management professional staff commensurate with the size of the delegated portfolio.

''(iii) Each major acquisition program concerned has written documentation showing that it has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline and it is meeting agreed-upon cost, schedule, and performance thresholds.

''(4) EXCLUDED PARTIES LIST SYSTEM CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary for Management shall require that all Department contracting and procurement officials consult the Excluded Parties List System (or successor system) as maintained by the General Services Administration prior to awarding a contract or grant or entering into other transactions to ascertain whether the selected contractor is excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain types of Federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits.

''(5) RELATIONSHIP TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Nothing in this subsection shall diminish the authority granted to the Under Secretary for Science and Technology under this Act. The Under Secretary for Management and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall cooperate in matters related to the coordination of acquisitions across the Department so that investments of the Directorate of Science and Technology can support current and future requirements of the Components.''.

SEC. 102. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.

Section 702 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 342) is amended by adding at the end of subsection (b)(2) the following new subparagraph:

''(J) Notwithstanding section 902 of title 31, United States Code, provide leadership over financial management policy and programs for the Department as they relate to the Department's acquisitions programs, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management.''.

SEC. 103. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.

Section 703 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) ACQUISITION RESPONSIBILITIES.—Notwithstanding section 11315 of title 40, United States Code, the acquisition responsibilities of the Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall include the following:

''(1) Serve as the lead technical authority for information technology programs and establish departmental information technology priorities, policies, processes, standards, guidelines, and procedures.

''(2) Oversee the management of the Homeland Security Enterprise Architecture and ensure that, before each acquisition decision event, approved information technology acquisitions comply with departmental information technology management processes, technical requirements, and the Homeland Security Enterprise Architecture, and in any case in which information technology acquisitions do not comply with Departmental management directives, make recommendations to the Acquisition Review Board regarding such noncompliance.

''(3) Be responsible for providing recommendations to the Acquisition Review Board established in section 836 of this Act on information technology programs, and be responsible for developing information technology acquisition strategic guidance.''.

SEC. 104. CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 708. CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is a Chief Procurement Officer of the Department, who shall report directly to the Under Secretary for Management. The Chief Procurement Officer is the senior procurement executive for purposes of section 1702(c) of title 41, United States Code, and shall perform procurement functions as specified in such section. The Chief Procurement Officer also shall perform other functions and responsibilities set forth in this section and as may be assigned by the Under Secretary for Management.

''(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Procurement Officer shall—

''(1) exercise leadership and authority to the extent delegated by the Under Secretary for Management over the Department procurement function;

''(2) issue acquisition regulations and policies;

''(3) account for the integrity, performance, and oversight of Department procurement and contracting functions and be responsible for ensuring that a procurement's contracting strategy and plans are consistent with the intent and direction of the Acquisition Review Board established in section 836 of this Act;

''(4) serve as the Department's business advisor and main liaison to industry on procurement-related issues by providing advice on industry engagement, acquisition policy, oversight of the procurement function, and development of the acquisition workforce;

''(5) oversee a centralized certification and training program, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, for the entire Department acquisition workforce while using, to the greatest extent practicable, best practices and acquisitions training opportunities already in existence within the Federal Government, the private sector, or universities and colleges, as appropriate, and including training on how best to identify actions that warrant referrals for suspension or debarment;

''(6) delegate or retain contracting authority, as appropriate, except as provided in section 701(d)(3) of this Act;

''(7) participate in the selection, and periodic performance review, of the head of each contracting activity within the Department;

''(8) collect baseline data and establish performance measures on the impact of strategic sourcing initiatives on the private sector, including, in particular, small businesses; and

''(9) ensure that a fair proportion (as defined pursuant to the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.)) of Federal contract and subcontract dollars are awarded to small businesses, maximize opportunities for small business participation, and ensure, to the extent practicable, small businesses that achieve qualified vendor status for security-related technologies are provided an opportunity to compete for contracts for such technology.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 707 the following new item:

''Sec. 708. Chief Procurement Officer.''.

SEC. 105. REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 709. REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH MECHANISM.—Within the Management Directorate, the Under Secretary for Management shall establish a mechanism to prioritize improving the accountability, standardization, and transparency of major acquisition programs of the Department in order to increase opportunities for effectiveness and efficiencies and to serve as the central oversight function of all Department acquisition programs.

''(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Under Secretary for Management shall designate an Executive Director to oversee the requirement under subsection (a). The Executive Director shall report directly to the Under Secretary and shall carry out the following responsibilities:

''(1) Monitor the performance of Department acquisition programs regularly between acquisition decision events to identify problems with cost, performance, or schedule that Components may need to address to prevent cost overruns, performance issues, or schedule delays.

''(2) Assist the Chief Acquisition Officer in managing the Department's acquisition portfolio.

''(3) Conduct oversight of individual acquisition programs to implement Department acquisition program policy, procedures, and guidance with a priority on ensuring the data it collects and maintains from its Components is accurate and reliable.

''(4) Serve as the focal point within the Department for policy, process, and procedure regarding life cycle cost estimating and analysis.

''(5) Serve as the focal point and coordinator for the acquisition life cycle review process and as the executive secretariat for the Acquisition Review Board established under section 836 of this Act.

''(6) Advise the persons having acquisition decision authority in making acquisition decisions consistent with all applicable laws and in establishing clear lines of authority, accountability, and responsibility for acquisition decisionmaking within the Department.

''(7) Engage in the strategic planning and performance evaluation process required under section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and sections 1105(a)(28), 1115, 1116, and 9703 of title 31, United States Code, by supporting the Chief Procurement Officer in developing strategies and specific plans for hiring, training, and professional development in order to rectify any deficiency within the Department's acquisition workforce.

''(8) Oversee the Component Acquisition Executive structure to ensure it has sufficient capabilities and complies with Department policies.

''(9) Develop standardized certification standards in consultation with the Component Acquisition Executives for all acquisition program managers.

''(10) In the event that a program manager's certification or actions need review for purposes of promotion or removal, provide input, in consultation with the relevant Component Acquisition Executive, into the relevant program manager's performance evaluation, and report positive or negative experiences to the relevant certifying authority.

''(11) Provide technical support and assistance to Department acquisitions and acquisition personnel in conjunction with the Chief Procurement Officer.

''(12) Prepare the Department's Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report, as required by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (division D of Public Law 113–6; 127 Stat. 343) and section

840 of this Act, and make such report available to congressional homeland security committees.

''(13) Prepare the Department's Quarterly Program Accountability Report as required by section 840 of this Act, and make such report available to the congressional homeland security committees.

''(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPONENTS.—Each head of a Component shall comply with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives established by the Under Secretary for Management. For each major acquisition program, each head of a Component shall—

''(1) establish a complete life cycle cost estimate with supporting documentation, including an acquisition program baseline;

''(2) verify each life cycle cost estimate against independent cost estimates, and reconcile any differences;

''(3) complete a cost-benefit analysis with supporting documentation;

''(4) develop and maintain a schedule that is consistent with scheduling best practices as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States, including, in appropriate cases, an integrated master schedule; and

''(5) ensure that all acquisition program information provided by the Component is complete, accurate, timely, and valid.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 708 the following new item:

''Sec. 709. Requirements to ensure greater accountability for acquisition programs.''.

TITLE II—ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINE

SEC. 201. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 836. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an Acquisition Review Board (in this section referred to as the 'Board') to strengthen accountability and uniformity within the Department acquisition review process, review major acquisition programs, and review the use of best practices.

''(b) COMPOSITION.—The Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary for Management shall serve as chair of the Board. The Secretary shall also ensure participation by other relevant Department officials, including at least two Component heads or their designees, as permanent members of the Board.

''(c) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet every time a major acquisition program needs authorization to proceed from acquisition decision events through the acquisition life cycle and to consider any major acquisition program in breach as necessary. The Board may also be convened for non-major acquisitions that are deemed high-risk by the Executive Director referred to in section 709(b) of this Act. The Board shall also meet regularly for purposes of ensuring all acquisitions processes proceed in a timely fashion to achieve mission readiness.

''(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Board are as follows:

''(1) Determine whether a proposed acquisition has met the requirements of key phases of the acquisition life cycle framework and is able to proceed to the next phase and eventual full production and deployment.

''(2) Oversee executable business strategy, resources, management, accountability, and alignment to strategic initiatives.

''(3) Support the person with acquisition decision authority for an acquisition in determining the appropriate direction for the acquisition at key acquisition decision events.

''(4) Conduct systematic reviews of acquisitions to ensure that they are progressing in compliance with the approved documents for their current acquisition phase.

''(5) Validate the acquisition documents of each major acquisition program, including the acquisition program baseline, to ensure the reliability of underlying data.

''(6) Ensure that practices are adopted and implemented to require consideration of trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives as part of the process for developing requirements for major acquisition programs prior to the initiation of the capability development plan, second acquisition decision event, including, at a minimum, the following practices:

''(A) Department officials responsible for acquisition, budget, and cost estimating functions are provided with the appropriate opportunity to develop estimates and raise cost and schedule matters before performance objectives are established for capabilities when feasible.

''(B) Full consideration of possible trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives for each alternative is considered.

''(e) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE REPORT REQUIREMENT.—If the person exercising acquisition decision authority over a major acquisition program approves the program to proceed beyond the acquisition decision event requiring a capability development plan before it has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline, then the Under Secretary for Management shall create and approve an acquisition program baseline report on the decision, and the Secretary shall—

''(1) within seven days after an acquisition decision memorandum is signed, notify in writing the congressional homeland security committees of such decision; and

''(2) within 60 days after the acquisition decision memorandum is signed, submit a report to such committees stating the rationale for the decision and a plan of action to require an acquisition program baseline for the program.

''(f) BEST PRACTICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'best practices' has the meaning provided in section 4(b) of the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 835 the following new item:

''Sec. 836. Acquisition Review Board.''.

SEC. 202. REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION IN ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 837. REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION IN ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH POLICIES.—In an effort to reduce duplication and inefficiency for all Department investments, including major acquisition programs, the Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall establish Department-wide policies to integrate all phases of the investment life cycle and help the Department identify, validate, and prioritize standards for common Component requirements for major acquisition program requirements in order to increase opportunities for effectiveness and efficiencies. The policies shall also include strategic alternatives for developing and facilitating a Department Component-driven requirements process that includes oversight of a development test and evaluation capability; identification of priority gaps and overlaps in Department capability needs; and provision of feasible technical alternatives, including innovative commercially available alternatives, to meet capability needs.

''(b) MECHANISMS TO CARRY OUT REQUIREMENT.—The Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall coordinate the actions necessary to carry out subsection (a), using such mechanisms as considered necessary by the Secretary to help the Department reduce duplication and inefficiency for all Department investments, including major acquisition programs.

''(c) COORDINATION.—In coordinating the actions necessary to carry out subsection (a), the Deputy Secretary shall consult with the Under Secretary for Management, Component Acquisition Executives, and any other Department officials, including the Under Secretary for Science and Technology or his designee, with specific knowledge of Department or Component acquisition capabilities to prevent unnecessary duplication of requirements.

''(d) ADVISORS.—The Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall seek and consider input within legal and ethical boundaries from members of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, as appropriate, on matters within their authority and expertise in carrying out the Department's mission.

''(e) MEETINGS.—The Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall meet at least quarterly and communicate with Components often to ensure that Components do not overlap or duplicate spending or priorities on major investments and acquisition programs within their areas of responsibility.

''(f) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out this section, the responsibilities of the Deputy Secretary are as follows:

''(1) To review and validate the requirements documents of major investments and acquisition programs prior to acquisition decision events of the investments or programs.

''(2) To ensure the requirements and scope of a major investment or acquisition program are stable, measurable, achievable, at an acceptable risk level, and match the resources planned to be available.

''(3) Before any entity of the Department issues a solicitation for a new contract, coordinate with other Department entities as appropriate to prevent duplication and inefficiency and—

''(A) to implement portfolio reviews to identify common mission requirements and crosscutting opportunities among Components to harmonize investments and requirements and prevent overlap and duplication among Components; and

''(B) to the extent practicable, to standardize equipment purchases, streamline the acquisition process, improve efficiencies, and conduct best practices for strategic sourcing.

''(4) To ensure program managers of major investments and acquisition programs conduct analyses, giving particular attention to factors such as cost, schedule, risk, performance, and operational efficiency in order to determine that programs work as intended within cost and budget expectations.

''(5) To propose schedules for delivery of the operational capability needed to meet each Department investment and major acquisition program.

''(g) BEST PRACTICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'best practices' has the meaning provided in section 4(b) of the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 836 the following new item:

''Sec. 837. Requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.''.

SEC. 203. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF BOARD AND OF REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION IN ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the effectiveness of the Acquisition Review Board established under section 836 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 201) and the requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs established under section 837 of such Act (as added by section 202) in improving the Department's acquisition management process.

(b) SCOPE OF REPORT.—The review shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Department in increasing program management oversight, best practices and standards, and discipline among the Components of the Department, including in working together and in preventing overlap and duplication.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Department in instilling program management discipline.

(3) A statement of how regularly each major acquisition program is reviewed by the Board, how often the Board stops major acquisition programs from moving forward in the phases of the acquisition life cycle process, and the number of major acquisition programs that have been halted because of problems with operational effectiveness, schedule delays, or cost overruns.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees a report on the review required by this section not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 204. EXCLUDED PARTY LIST SYSTEM WAIVERS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide notification to the congressional homeland security committees within five days after the issuance of a waiver by the Secretary of Federal requirements that an agency not engage in business with a contractor in the Excluded Party List System (or successor system) as maintained by the General Services Administration and an explanation for a finding by the Secretary that a compelling reason exists for this action.

SEC. 205. INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security—

(1) may audit decisions about grant and procurement awards to identify instances where a contract or grant was improperly awarded to a suspended or debarred entity and whether corrective actions were taken to prevent recurrence; and

(2) shall review the suspension and debarment program throughout the Department of Homeland Security to assess whether suspension and debarment criteria are consistently applied throughout the Department and whether disparities exist in the application of such criteria, particularly with respect to business size and categories.

TITLE III—ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 301. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM BREACH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 838. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM BREACH.

''(a) BREACH DEFINED.—The term 'breach', with respect to a major acquisition program, means a failure to meet any cost, schedule, or performance parameter specified in the acquisition program baseline.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS WITHIN DEPARTMENT IF BREACH OCCURS.—

''(1) NOTIFICATIONS.—

''(A) NOTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL BREACH.—If a major acquisition program has a potential for a future breach, as determined by the program manager for that program, the program manager shall notify the person exercising acquisition decision authority for the program.

''(B) NOTIFICATION OF ACTUAL BREACH.—If an actual breach occurs in a major acquisition program, the program manager for that program shall notify the head of the Component concerned, the Component Acquisition Executive for the program, the Executive Director referred to in section 709(b) of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management, and the Deputy Secretary.

''(C) NOTIFICATION TO SECRETARY.—If a major acquisition program has an actual breach with a cost overrun greater than 20 percent or a schedule delay greater than 12 months from the costs or schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline for the program, the Secretary and the Inspector General of the Department shall be notified not later than five business days after the actual breach is identified.

''(2) REMEDIATION PLAN AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an actual breach with a cost overrun greater than 15 percent or a schedule delay greater than 180 days from the costs or schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline, a remediation plan and root cause analysis is required, and the Under Secretary for Management or his designee shall establish a date for submission within the Department of a breach remediation plan and root cause analysis in accordance with this subsection.

''(B) REMEDIATION PLAN.—The remediation plan required under this subsection shall be submitted in writing to the head of the Component concerned, the Executive Director referred to in section 709(b) of this Act, and the Under Secretary for Management. The plan shall—

''(i) explain the circumstances of the breach;

''(ii) provide prior cost estimating information;

''(iii) propose corrective action to control cost growth, schedule delays, or performance issues;

''(iv) in coordination with Component Acquisition Executive, discuss all options considered, including the estimated impact on cost, schedule, or performance of the program if no changes are made to current requirements, the estimated cost of the program if requirements are modified, and the extent to which funding from other programs will need to be reduced to cover the cost growth of the program; and

''(v) explain the rationale for why the proposed corrective action is recommended.

''(C) ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS.—The root cause analysis required under this subsection shall determine the underlying cause or causes of shortcomings in cost, schedule, or performance of the program, including the role, if any, of the following:

''(i) Unrealistic performance expectations.

''(ii) Unrealistic baseline estimates for cost or schedule or changes in program requirements.

''(iii) Immature technologies or excessive manufacturing or integration risk.

''(iv) Unanticipated design, engineering, manufacturing, or technology integration issues arising during program performance.

''(v) Changes in procurement quantities.

''(vi) Inadequate program funding or changes in planned out-year funding from one five-year funding plan to the next five-year funding plan as outlined in the Future Years Homeland Security Program required under section 874 of this Act.

''(vii) Legislative, legal, or regulatory changes.

''(viii) Inadequate program management personnel, including lack of training, credentials, certifications, or use of best practices.

''(3) CORRECTION OF BREACH.—The Under Secretary for Management or his designee shall establish a date for submission within the Department of a program of corrective action that ensures that one of the following actions has occurred:

''(A) The breach has been corrected and the program is again in compliance with the original acquisition program baseline parameters.

''(B) A revised acquisition program baseline has been approved.

''(C) The program has been halted or cancelled.

''(c) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION IF BREACH OCCURS.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—If a notification is made under subsection (b)(1)(B) for a breach in a major acquisition program with a cost overrun greater than 15 percent or a schedule delay greater than 180 days from the costs or schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline, or with an anticipated failure for any key performance threshold or parameter specified in the acquisition program baseline, the Under Secretary for Management shall notify the congressional homeland security committees of the breach in the next quarterly Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report after the Under Secretary for Management receives the notification from the program manager under subsection (b)(1)(B).

''(2) SUBSTANTIAL VARIANCES IN COSTS OR SCHEDULE.—If a likely cost overrun is greater than 20 percent or a likely delay is greater than 12 months from the costs and schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline for a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall include in the notification required in (c)(1) a written certification, with supporting explanation, that—

''(A) the acquisition is essential to the accomplishment of the Department's mission;

''(B) there are no alternatives to such capability or asset that will provide equal or greater capability in both a more cost-effective and timely manner;

''(C) the new acquisition schedule and estimates for total acquisition cost are reasonable; and

''(D) the management structure for the acquisition program is adequate to manage and control performance, cost, and schedule.

''(3) SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 calendar days after submission to such committees of a breach notification under paragraph (1) of this section for a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to such committees the following:

''(A) A copy of the remediation plan and the root cause analysis prepared under subsection (b)(2) for the program.

''(B) A statement describing the corrective action or actions that have occurred pursuant to subsection (b)(3) for the program, with a justification for the action or actions.

''(d) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IF BREACH OCCURS.—

''(1) PROHIBITION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—During the 90-day period following submission under subsection (c)(3) of a remediation plan, root cause analysis, and statement of corrective actions with respect to a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit a certification described in paragraph (2) of this subsection to the congressional homeland security committees. If the Under Secretary for Management does not submit such certification by the end of such 90-day period, then funds appropriated to the major acquisition program shall not be obligated until the Under Secretary for Management submits such certification.

''(2) CERTIFICATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the certification described in this paragraph is a certification that—

''(A) the Department has adjusted or restructured the program in a manner that addresses the root cause or causes of the cost growth in the program; and

''(B) the Department has conducted a thorough review of the breached program's acquisition decision event approvals and the current acquisition decision event approval for the breached program has been adjusted as necessary to account for the restructured program.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 837 the following new item:

''Sec. 838. Congressional notification and other requirements for major acquisition program breach.''.

SEC. 302. MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 839. MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

''(a) MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate homeland security committees a multiyear acquisition strategy to guide the overall direction of the acquisitions of the Department while allowing flexibility to deal with ever-changing threats and risks and to help industry better understand, plan, and align resources to meet the future acquisition needs of the Department. The strategy shall be updated and included in each Future Years Homeland Security Program required under section 874 of this Act.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy, the Secretary shall consult with others as the Secretary deems appropriate, including headquarters, Components, employees in the field, and when appropriate, individuals from industry and the academic community.

''(c) FORM OF STRATEGY.—The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex for any sensitive or classified information if necessary. The Department also shall publish the plan in an unclassified format that is publicly available.

''(d) CONTENTS OF STRATEGY.—The strategy shall include the following:

''(1) PRIORITIZED LIST.—A systematic and integrated prioritized list developed by the Under Secretary for Management or his designee in coordination with all of the Component Acquisition Executives of Department major acquisition programs that Department and Component acquisition investments seek to address, that includes the expected security and economic benefit of the program or system and an analysis of how the security and economic benefit derived from the program or system will be measured.

''(2) INVENTORY.—A plan to develop a reliable Department-wide inventory of investments and real property assets to help the Department plan, budget, schedule, and acquire upgrades of its systems and equipment and plan for the acquisition and management of future systems and equipment.

''(3) FUNDING GAPS.—A plan to address funding gaps between funding requirements for major acquisition programs and known available resources including, to the maximum extent practicable, ways of leveraging best practices to identify and eliminate overpayment for items to prevent wasteful purchasing, achieve the greatest level of efficiency and cost savings by rationalizing purchases, aligning pricing for similar items, and utilizing purchase timing and economies of scale.

''(4) IDENTIFICATION OF CAPABILITIES.—An identification of test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities that will be required to support the acquisition of the technologies to meet the needs of the plan and ways to leverage to the greatest extent possible the emerging technology trends and research and development trends within the public and private sectors and an identification of ways to ensure that the appropriate technology is acquired and integrated into the Department's operating doctrine and procured in ways that improve mission performance.

''(5) FOCUS ON FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS.—An assessment of ways the Department can improve its ability to test and acquire innovative solutions to allow needed incentives and protections for appropriate risk-taking in order to meet its acquisition needs with resiliency, agility, and responsiveness to assure the Nation's homeland security and facilitate trade.

''(6) FOCUS ON INCENTIVES TO SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS.—An assessment of ways the Department can develop incentives for program managers and senior Department acquisition officials to prevent cost overruns, avoid schedule delays, and achieve cost savings in major acquisition programs.

''(7) FOCUS ON ADDRESSING DELAYS AND BID PROTESTS.—An assessment of ways the Department can improve the acquisition process to minimize cost overruns in requirements development, procurement announcements, requests for proposals, evaluation of proposals, protests of decisions and awards and through the use of best practices as defined in section 4(b) of the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act and lessons learned by the Department and other Federal agencies.

''(8) FOCUS ON IMPROVING OUTREACH.—An identification and assessment of ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with industry, small and disadvantaged businesses, intra-government entities, university centers of excellence, accredited certification and standards development organizations, and national laboratories to ensure that the Department understands the market for technologies, products, and innovation that is available to meet its mission needs to inform the requirements-setting process and before engaging in an acquisition, including—

''(A) methods designed especially to engage small and disadvantaged businesses and a cost-benefit analysis of the tradeoffs that small and disadvantaged businesses provide, barriers to entry for small and disadvantaged businesses, and unique requirements for small and disadvantaged businesses; and

''(B) within the Department Vendor Communication Plan and Market Research Guide, instructions for interaction by program managers with such entities to prevent misinterpretation of acquisition regulations and to permit freedom within legal and ethical boundaries for program managers to interact with such businesses with transparency.

''(9) COMPETITION.—A plan regarding competition as described in subsection (e).

''(10) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—A plan regarding the Department acquisition workforce as described in subsection (f).

''(11) FEASIBILITY OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND PILOT PROGRAM.—An assessment of the feasibility of conducting a pilot program to establish an acquisition workforce development fund as described in subsection (g).

''(e) COMPETITION PLAN.—The strategy shall also include a plan (referred to in subsection (d)(9)) that shall address actions to ensure competition, or the option of competition, for major acquisition programs. The plan may include assessments of the following measures in appropriate cases if such measures are cost effective:

''(1) Competitive prototyping.

''(2) Dual-sourcing.

''(3) Unbundling of contracts.

''(4) Funding of next-generation prototype systems or subsystems.

''(5) Use of modular, open architectures to enable competition for upgrades.

''(6) Acquisition of complete technical data packages.

''(7) Periodic competitions for subsystem upgrades.

''(8) Licensing of additional suppliers, including small businesses.

''(9) Periodic system or program reviews to address long-term competitive effects of program decisions.

''(f) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE PLAN.—

''(1) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—The strategy shall also include a plan (referred to in subsection (d)(10)) to address Department acquisition workforce accountability and talent management that identifies the acquisition workforce needs of each Component performing acquisition functions and develops options for filling those needs with qualified individuals, including a cost-benefit analysis of contracting for acquisition assistance.

''(2) ADDITIONAL MATTERS COVERED.—The acquisition workforce plan shall address ways to—

''(A) improve the recruitment, hiring, training, and retention of Department acquisition workforce personnel, including contracting officer's representatives, in order to retain highly qualified individuals that have experience in the acquisition life cycle, complex procurements, and management of large programs;

''(B) empower program managers to have the authority to manage their programs in an accountable and transparent manner as they work with the acquisition workforce;

''(C) prevent duplication within Department acquisition workforce training and certification requirements through leveraging already-existing training within the Federal Government, academic community, or private industry;

''(D) achieve integration and consistency with Government-wide training and accreditation standards, acquisition training tools, and training facilities;

''(E) designate the acquisition positions that will be necessary to support the Department acquisition requirements, including in the fields of—

''(i) program management;

''(ii) systems engineering;

''(iii) procurement, including contracting;

''(iv) test and evaluation;

''(v) life cycle logistics;

''(vi) cost estimating and program financial management; and

''(vii) additional disciplines appropriate to Department mission needs;

''(F) strengthen the performance of contracting officer's representatives (as defined in Subpart 1.602-2 and Subpart 2.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation), including by—

''(i) assessing the extent to which contracting officer's representatives are certified and receive training that is appropriate;

''(ii) determining what training is most effective with respect to the type and complexity of assignment; and

''(iii) implementing actions to improve training based on such assessment; and

''(G) identify ways to increase training for relevant investigators and auditors to examine fraud in major acquisition programs, including identifying opportunities to leverage existing Government and private sector resources in coordination with the Inspector General of the Department.

''(g) FEASIBILITY OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND PILOT PROGRAM.—The strategy shall also include an assessment (referred to in subsection (d)(11)) of the feasibility of conducting a pilot program to establish a Homeland Security Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (in this subsection referred to as the 'Fund') to ensure the Department acquisition workforce has the capacity, in both personnel and skills, needed to properly perform its mission and ensure that the Department receives the best value for the expenditure of public resources. The assessment shall address the following:

''(1) Ways to fund the Fund, including the use of direct appropriations, or the credit, transfer, or deposit of unobligated or unused funds from Department Components into the Fund to remain available for obligation in the fiscal year for which credited, transferred, or deposited and to remain available for successive fiscal years.

''(2) Ways to reward the Department acquisition workforce and program managers for good program management in controlling cost growth, limiting schedule delays, and ensuring operational effectiveness through providing a percentage of the savings or general acquisition bonuses.

''(3) Guidance for the administration of the Fund that includes provisions to do the following:

''(A) Describe the costs and benefits associated with the use of direct appropriations or credit, transfer, or deposit of unobligated or unused funds to finance the Fund.

''(B) Describe the manner and timing for applications for amounts in the Fund to be submitted.

''(C) Explain the evaluation criteria to be used for approving or prioritizing applications for amounts in the Fund in any fiscal year.

''(D) Explain the mechanism to report to Congress on the implementation of the Fund on an ongoing basis.

''(E) Detail measurable performance metrics to determine if the Fund is meeting the objective to improve the acquisition workforce and to achieve cost savings in acquisition management.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 838 the following new item:

''Sec. 839. Multiyear acquisition strategy.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO FUTURE YEARS HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM.—Section 874(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 454(b)) is amended—

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

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

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

''(4) include the multiyear acquisition strategy required under section 839 of this Act.''.

SEC. 303. ACQUISITION REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 840. ACQUISITION REPORTS.

''(a) COMPREHENSIVE ACQUISITION STATUS REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Management each year shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees, at the same time as the President's budget is submitted for a fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a comprehensive acquisition status report. The report shall include the following:

''(A) The information required under the heading 'Office of the Under Secretary for Management' under Title I of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74) (as required under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–6).

''(B) A listing of programs that have been cancelled, modified, paused, or referred to the Under Secretary for Management or Deputy Secretary for additional oversight or action by the Board, Department Office of Inspector General, or the Comptroller General.

''(C) A listing of established Executive Steering Committees, which provide governance of a program or related set of programs and lower-tiered oversight, and support between acquisition decision events and Component reviews, including the mission and membership for each.

''(2) INFORMATION FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.—For each major acquisition program, the report shall include the following:

''(A) A narrative description, including current gaps and shortfalls, the capabilities to be fielded, and the number of planned increments or units.

''(B) Acquisition Review Board (or other board designated to review the acquisition) status of each acquisition, including the current acquisition phase, the date of the last review, and a listing of the required documents that have been reviewed with the dates reviewed or approved.

''(C) The most current, approved acquisition program baseline (including project schedules and events).

''(D) A comparison of the original acquisition program baseline, the current acquisition program baseline, and the current estimate.

''(E) Whether or not an independent verification and validation has been implemented, with an explanation for the decision and a summary of any findings.

''(F) A rating of cost risk, schedule risk, and technical risk associated with the program (including narrative descriptions and mitigation actions).

''(G) Contract status (including earned value management data as applicable).

''(H) A lifecycle cost of the acquisition, and time basis for the estimate.

''(3) UPDATES.—The Under Secretary shall submit quarterly updates to such report not later than 45 days after the completion of each quarter.

''(b) QUARTERLY PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.—The Under Secretary for Management shall prepare a quarterly program accountability report to meet the Department's mandate to perform program health assessments and improve program execution and governance. The report shall be submitted to the congressional homeland security committees.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 839 the following new item:

''Sec. 840. Acquisition reports.''.

SEC. 304. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—After submission to Congress of the first multiyear acquisition strategy (pursuant to section 839 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002) after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the plan within 180 days to analyze the viability of the plan's effectiveness in the following:

(1) Complying with the requirements in section 839 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 302 of this Act.

(2) Establishing clear connections between Department objectives and acquisition priorities.

(3) Demonstrating that Department acquisition policy reflects program management best practices and standards.

(4) Ensuring competition or the option of competition for major acquisition programs.

(5) Considering potential cost savings through using already-existing technologies when developing acquisition program requirements.

(6) Preventing duplication within Department acquisition workforce training requirements through leveraging already-existing training within the Federal Government, academic community, or private industry.

(7) Providing incentives for program managers to reduce acquisition and procurement costs through the use of best practices and disciplined program management.

(8) Assessing the feasibility of conducting a pilot program to establish a Homeland Security Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees a report on the review required by this section. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 305. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—No later than 2 years following the submission of the report submitted by the Comptroller General of the United States as required by section 304, the Department's Inspector General shall conduct a review of whether the Department has complied with the multiyear acquisition strategy (pursuant to section 839 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002) and adhered to the strategies set forth in the plan. The review shall also consider whether the Department has complied with the requirements to provide the Acquisition Review Board with a capability development plan for each major acquisition program.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Inspector General shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees a report of the review required by this section. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to improve the Department of Homeland Security's, DHS, acquisition management. In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, DHS was created to ensure such an attack would never occur again; yet for much of its existence, proper management has taken a back seat.

DHS is now the third largest Federal department with a budget authority of almost $60 billion. A significant amount of the budget is used to buy systems and programs used to secure our borders, protect our shores, and scan people and cargo coming into the United States, among other missions. Unfortunately, many of these major acquisition programs cost more, are late, and do less than is expected.

For 9 years, the Government Accountability Office has been telling the DHS in its high-risk list that its acquisition programs are highly susceptible to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

In addition, the DHS inspector general has identified acquisition management as a major management challenge for DHS, and it audits have found serious mismanagement in TSA body scanners and canine teams, failures to improve radio systems, and waste in CBP and Coast Guard helicopters.

Although DHS has taken steps to implement an acquisition policy with elements of commercial best practices and put mechanisms in place to review programs, it has routinely failed to hold programs accountable. This must change. DHS cannot afford its major acquisition programs. In a time of reduced budgets, DHS must make every dollar count.

Today's legislation, H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act, follows consistent subcommittee oversight of DHS acquisition issues. In the 112th Congress, the subcommittee published an August 2012 report providing recommendations for DHS to correct weaknesses in its acquisition and contracting practices. This report went unheeded, and the weaknesses remain to this day.

In the 113th Congress, we have sent numerous letters to DHS and the GAO requiring greater scrutiny on various acquisition programs, and in September 2013, we held a hearing on ways that the DHS could use best practices from the Defense Department and private sector to save taxpayer dollars in acquisition management.

In view of these efforts, I am pleased that the bipartisan cooperation that the ranking member and I have had in drafting H.R. 4228, and I am grateful for the strong support this bill has received.

I would also like to note letters of support from the Project Management Institute, Security Industry Association, Professional Services Council, TechAmerica, IT Alliance for Public Sector, and the American Conservative Union. Business Executives for National Security has also stated its support publicly.

This bill addresses DHS' acquisition problems in several ways. First, it requires leadership accountability from the chief acquisition officer and components in following Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and DHS acquisition management directives.

Second, it requires discipline. Every major acquisition program must have an approved acquisition program baseline, an APB, which is a vital document that DHS programs need to measure performance, manage cost growth, and schedule slips; and the acquisition review board must validate acquisition documents of programs.

Third, it provides clarity for American businesses by authorizing the chief procurement officer to serve as the main liaison to industry and oversee a certification and training program for DHS' acquisition workforce; by requiring a multiyear acquisition strategy to guide the direction of DHS acquisitions and help industry better understand, plan, and align resources to meet future acquisition needs of DHS; and by compelling DHS to address issues regarding bid protests.

Fourth, this bill increases transparency by requiring DHS to report to Congress on programs that failed to meet cost, schedule, or performance parameters specified in the APB and by instructing DHS to eliminate unnecessary duplication and inefficiency.

I believe we have a precedent for such efforts under President Ronald Reagan's leadership. In the 1980s, he worked with Congress to address these types of issues in troubled defense programs, and I believe that DHS needs similar leadership from today's President and Congress.

H.R. 4228 will not solve every acquisition problem that DHS has, but it is a first step in forcing DHS to hold its acquisition programs accountable. This bill will help find cost savings through better management policies and strategies.

This is essential if our government is ever going to climb out of the $17.5 trillion worth of debt. It starts one good decision at a time, and DHS can make a difference by improving its acquisition management and by thinking more strategically about its acquisition choices. The American people deserve nothing less. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I will insert in the RECORD the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4228—DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4228 would cost $1 million in 2015 and less than $500,000 in each year thereafter, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 4228 would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to improve the accountability, transparency, and efficiency of its major acquisition programs. The bill would specify procedures for the department to follow if it fails to meet timelines, cost estimates, or other performance parameters for these programs. In addition, H.R. 4228 would require DHS to prepare a comprehensive report each year on the status of its acquisition program and would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the DHS Inspector General to review and report on certain issues related to departmental acquisition policies.

Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that the new DHS administrative procedures as well as additional reviews and reports by GAO and DHS required by H.R. 4228 would cost $1 million in 2015 and less than $500,000 annually thereafter, assuming availability of appropriated funds. CBO expects that DHS will continue to seek to improve its efficiency in acquiring goods and services under current law; we have no basis for estimating any savings in procurement costs that might occur as a result of the bill's directives to the department.

H.R. 4228 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act, and I urge the House to pass the bill. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I was very pleased to work with my colleague, Congressman JEFF DUNCAN, who chairs our Oversight Subcommittee, and I fully support the legislation as yet another product of collaboration between Republicans and Democrats on our committee to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security succeeds in streamlining its acquisitions management process.

As the ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, I am absolutely committed to saving taxpayer money and working to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security eliminates waste, fraud, and abuse. We must be good stewards of the taxpayers' money, and we must require the departments to be the same.

As a Representative whose district covers 83 miles of Arizona border with Mexico, I have seen firsthand the failures of the Department of Homeland Security's acquisition processes, and the need for an effective and efficient process that gets resources to the agents and other DHS employees on the ground.

They need them to secure our borders, our ports of entry, and our Nation. In my district, we have witnessed for far too long many acquisitions that did not stand up to scrutiny, cost overruns, and money spent in excessive ways that did not meet the end goal.

If enacted, H.R. 4228 will give the Department the tools to bring greater transparency, accountability, and consistency to the Department's acquisition process.

The Department expends almost one-quarter of its overall budget to purchase goods and services, with a total of $12.2 billion spent in fiscal year 2013 on 85,000 acquisitions. Thus far, in fiscal year 2014, the Department has allocated upwards of $4 billion on 27,000 transactions, with more expenditures to come.

Since January 2003, the Government Accountability Office has included the Department on its high-risk list due to its task of integrating 22 legacy agencies into one entity. It is still, obviously, a work in progress. In its 2013 high-risk update, the GAO cited the Department for its failure to adequately overhaul its management challenges, including its acquisition process.

Inefficient management practices and procedures hurt the Department's ability to effectively and efficiently achieve its mission and keep America safe. In spite of the Department's agreement with the Government Accountability Office's findings, the Department has yet to fully improve its management functions, and as a result, the Department remains on the high-risk list.

According to the GAO, the Department's acquisitions costs increased from $19.7 billion in 2008 to $52.2 billion in 2011, representing an increase of 166 percent in 16 major acquisitions programs.

In response, H.R. 4228 will assist the Department in better managing its acquisitions management process by directing individual component agencies to follow the Department's rules for acquisitions and assure that resources are spent as intended.

This legislation also will address the Department's ongoing management challenges by implementing a process to alert Congress should programs begin to veer over budget and off schedule.

H.R. 4228 will make sure that, for the first time, the Department as a whole takes part in the acquisition review board process, a process that brings officials from across the entire Department together to monitor Department acquisitions.

It will help DHS in achieving another needed reform, the need for a stable, well-trained acquisitions workforce across all component agencies.

Furthermore, H.R. 4228 will ensure that small businesses are able to fairly compete for contracting opportunities. Making the Department of Homeland Security's acquisitions process more efficient and effective will absolutely save taxpayers money and allow the Department to more effectively accomplish its mission of protecting the Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for all of his efforts to help get this bill passed out of committee. It was a truly bipartisan effort. I know he was rushed to get here from a flight from Arizona, but I am glad he was able to participate today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as cosponsor of this bill and chairman of the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4228.

Over this past year, I have aggressively called for a reform agenda to address the evolving needs of DHS. This bill tackles one of the most urgent, the need to reform DHS acquisitions. These reforms are much needed and long overdue. I sincerely appreciate Chairman MCCAUL's and subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN's collaboration on this effort.

I urge a ''yes'' vote.

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

A lot is said over and over again about how Congress cannot find common ground. With this piece of legislation, we truly have shown that is possible. In fact, I would go on to say, Mr. Speaker, that our committee works in a very bipartisan manner. I am proud to be a member of a collaborative group who are interested in securing the homeland.

I was very pleased to work with Chairman DUNCAN, who chairs the House Oversight and Management Subcommittee, on this very important piece of legislation. In order for the Department of Homeland Security to better achieve its mission of securing our Nation, it must have efficient and effective management practices in place, and this legislation gives the Department the tools needed to bring greater transparency, accountability, and consistency to its acquisition process and to make sure that it reports accurately and timely to Congress on its progress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

□ 1830

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.

As the vice chairman of the Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee, I am proud to join Chairman DUNCAN in sponsoring this most important legislation, which works to improve efficiency at DHS and improve accountability to hardworking American taxpayers.

The DHS acquisition process has long faced problems resulting in waste, delays, and mismanaged taxpayer dollars. This is simply unacceptable. American taxpayers deserve better from their government. Through increased accountability, transparency, and improved collaboration with the private sector, this bill works to address these problems and bring accountability to DHS.

This legislation adopts commonsense, private sector principles, like developing incentives for program managers and senior Department acquisition officials to prevent cost overruns, avoid scheduled delays, and achieve cost savings in major acquisition programs.

It is long past time we move away from the government agency ''spend it or lose it'' budgeting tactic. This legislation could serve as a pilot program for adopting this principle across other agencies.

I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers. I want to urge the adoption of this bipartisan bill to provide the necessary reforms to DHS' acquisition process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4228, the "DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act," which was developed and introduced by the gentleman from South Carolina, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight & Management Efficiency, JEFF DUNCAN.

Since its inception, DHS has faced significant management challenges and the Government Accountability Office continues to include DHS management on its "High Risk List" of areas vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Over the course of several years, the Committee on Homeland Security has conducted extensive oversight of DHS management and acquisition practices. At the start of the Congress, the Committee pledged to manage

DHS with a business-model approach and we are.

Last year, the House passed H.R. 2719, the "Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act" to improve TSA technology acquisition programs and today's bill builds upon that effort with cost savings through better management policies and strategies across the Department. While I'm encouraged by a recent memo from Secretary Johnson to his DHS leadership team calling for greater component agency collaboration and accountability, more work is still needed.

H.R. 4228 safeguards taxpayer dollars, increases accountability for DHS's big-ticket acquisition purchases, and takes important steps to improve communication with industry to ensure DHS is fully leveraging the private sector to protect the homeland.

I appreciate the hard work of my colleagues on the Committee and I'd like to especially thank the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, and the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. BARBER for the bipartisan approach that they took in crafting this important piece of legislation, and the collaborative, deliberative process they followed to bring it to the floor.

There are many more opportunities for cost savings at DHS and through continued oversight, investigations and legislation, my Committee will continue to find them and present solutions. Taxpayers deserve no less.

I urge all my colleagues to join us in passing this vital piece of legislation that will further protect our Nation and the American taxpayer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4228, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the motion to suspend the rules previously postponed.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4412) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 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 Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 2, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 272]

YEAS—401

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—2

Broun (GA)
Sanford

NOT VOTING—28

Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Campbell
Cassidy
Clark (MA)
Davis, Danny
Dent
Deutch
Doyle
Ellison
Griffith (VA)
Hanabusa
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Lankford
McAllister
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Owens
Peters (MI)
Rangel
Richmond
Rush
Thompson (MS)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

□ 1856

Messrs. REICHERT and PETERS of California changed their 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR THE VICTIMS OF THE JUNE 8, 2014, LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the Nevada delegation comes before you with a heavy heart this evening in the wake of yesterday's tragic events in Las Vegas.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, two individuals who had recently moved to southern Nevada and participated in the Cliven Bundy resistance walked into a neighborhood pizza parlor. Carrying swastikas and the Gadsden flag and spouting antigovernment rhetoric, they shot and killed two police officers having lunch. They then killed an innocent bystander shopping at a nearby department store.

The officers, Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo, were both veterans of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, with a combined 21 years on the force. Officer Beck leaves behind a wife and three children, and Officer Soldo leaves behind a wife and a baby.

Joseph Robert Wilcox, 31, also of Las Vegas, was shopping when the two killers entered the department store and lost his life attempting to intervene.

Tonight, we ask you to join us in honoring the lives of these three victims of senseless violence, in mourning their family's devastating loss, in praying for all who have suffered as a result of these horrible events, and in commending Metro for its effective action and steadfast commitment to protecting our community even under the worst of circumstances.

I ask that the Members join us in a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Members will rise for a moment of silence.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4745.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) kindly take the chair.

□ 1901

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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOODALL (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on an amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 83, line 23.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mr. CHABOT of Ohio.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for each electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 154, noes 248, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 273]

AYES—154

Amash
Bachmann
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Black
Blackburn
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Cantor
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cotton
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garcia
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tsongas
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—248

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Calvert
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Whitfield
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—29

Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Butterfield
Campbell
Cassidy
Clark (MA)
Davis, Danny
Dent
Deutch
Doyle
Ellison
Griffith (VA)
Hanabusa
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Lankford
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Owens
Peters (MI)
Rangel
Richmond
Rush
Smith (NJ)
Thompson (MS)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1905

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, during rollcall vote No. 273 on H.R. 4745, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no."

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded

vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 127, noes 279, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 274]

AYES—127

Amash
Bachmann
Barton
Bentivolio
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Daines
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Harper
Harris
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Mica
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoho

NOES—279

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hultgren
Israel
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—25

Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Campbell
Cassidy
Clark (MA)
Davis, Danny
Dent
Deutch
Doyle
Ellison
Griffith (VA)
Hanabusa
Hunter
Jackson Lee
Lankford
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Owens
Peters (MI)
Rangel
Richmond
Rush
Thompson (MS)
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1911

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

VACATING DEMAND FOR RECORDED VOTE ON AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my request for a recorded voted on my amendment to the end that the amendment stand rejected by the earlier voice vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment stands rejected in accordance with the previous vote thereon.

□ 1915

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading ''Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing'' and the heading ''Project-Based Rental Assistance'', for fiscal year 2015 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That any obligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior that have been terminated shall be rescinded: *Provided further*, That amounts heretofore recaptured, or recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended, for the purposes set forth under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, at a time when Congress should be working together to make long-term investments in our crumbling infrastructure, today's T-HUD bill compromises our ability to meet the transportation needs of our local communities.

This bill significantly cuts funding to one of the Nation's most vital transportation programs—TIGER grants. Even worse, this bill significantly changes TIGER grant eligibility to prevent the funding for public transit, bike, and pedestrian projects. The significant funding and eligibility changes this bill makes have left this important program without any teeth. It seems that ''TIGER'' is no longer a fitting name. Instead, we should be referring to this bill's National Infrastructure Investments program simply as ''kitten grants.''

TIGER grants support critical projects that are driving economic growth and job creation across America. This bill includes only $100 million for TIGER grants, which is a reduction of more than 80 percent from this year's funding level. This move is ridiculous given that the current funding level can't even keep up with the demand of an incredibly popular program. Already, in the current grant application round, the U.S. Department of Transportation has received nearly

800 applications that are requesting a total of $9.5 billion—a request of more than 15 times what can be awarded. Additionally, the bill includes a bad policy rider with language that restricts TIGER eligibility to roads, highways, bridges, freight rail, and ports. This would be a devastating change for a wide variety of innovative projects that include public transportation, passenger rail, and bicycle and pedestrian programs.

TIGER grants help us modernize our transportation and infrastructure and create the 21st century highway and public transit systems America desperately needs, and nowhere are these programs needed more than in cities like my hometown of Chicago. Back home, TIGER grants have supported updates to the Chicago Transit Authority, have advanced the sustainable transportation efforts of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and local bike share programs, and have helped fund the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. Investing in a 21st century transportation system is essential for our economy, and more importantly, it will create jobs. Remember that every billion dollars invested in our infrastructure creates 30,000 jobs.

I joined the House Committee on Appropriations to make the tough funding choices that shape our national priorities, but this year's budget allocations have only taken that power away from us, forcing us to vote on a bill that drastically cuts vital services that people around the country depend upon. As we consider the T-HUD bill, we must stand together and demand Congress take action on long-term, smart investments that will move our people and our country forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Chairman, it is time that we invest in the roads, bridges, and railways that are vital to the economy of this great Nation. Businesses in the Eighth Congressional District need a strong transportation system to send their products across the country.

The companies in my district are investing in their infrastructure, yet our Nation's transportation networks have not kept up. A recent study showed that more than 300 bridges in the Chicago area are structurally deficient. This is simply unacceptable. We need to invest in infrastructure initiatives because all Americans will benefit from the results, be they increases in job opportunities or in shorter drives to work.

That is why I am appalled by the low TIGER funding in this bill as $100 million is nowhere near what my Eighth District and other projects around the country need to get people back to work and our economy moving again. One of these projects is the Fox River Bridge Improvement Project in Elgin, Illinois. This bridge has not been updated for over 80 years and is crucial to the railways of the suburbs of Chicago that transport both commercial freight and commuters. I am disappointed that this bill does not make the investments that will create jobs and make our economy competitive globally.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to join with Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WATERS, and other colleagues to call attention to the abysmally low funding contained in this bill for the TIGER program and to the need to increase and multiply this investment for the sake of our communities.

We have many concerns with this T-HUD bill before us, but I want to talk particularly about the TIGER program, otherwise known as the National Infrastructure Investments. It is a critical grant program which provides a unique opportunity for the Department of Transportation to invest in shovel-ready projects across transportation modes that promise to achieve critical national objectives, laying the groundwork for our future prosperity.

TIGER bridges critical gaps in formula funding programs to ensure that we are able to make investments in projects that are essential to both local and national goals. Each innovative project this program funds is multimodal, multijurisdictional and/or otherwise challenging to fund through existing transportation programs and funding streams.

Unfortunately, the bill before us would reduce the program's landmark flexibility by restricting the eligibility for TIGER to only road, bridge, freight, and port projects. Now, there is nothing wrong with these kinds of projects, but the downside of this restriction is that there is no room for funding that involves pedestrian crossings or bike lanes or recreational trails or planning activities or public transit or inner city passenger rail.

Many of us have benefited from having TIGER funding help a critical project in our districts. Let me just give one example, though, of a project that has gotten a lot of bipartisan praise, a project that would not have received funding if these eligibility restrictions had been in place. It is the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, which is a bicycle and pedestrian network that is one-third funded by TIGER. It is now touted as a draw to convention planners, as a central catalyst for hundreds of millions of dollars in new commercial and residential development, and it is the linchpin of a vibrant community. It simply could not have been funded if these restrictions which the majority has included in this bill had been in place. My district has been fortunate to receive TIGER funds to help build our multimodal Raleigh Union Station, but my community is not alone.

Over the last five funding rounds, TIGER has provided $3.5 billion for 270 critical infrastructure projects that have covered all 50 States, D.C., and Puerto Rico. That is just the tip of the iceberg. Previous TIGER funding rounds have shown significant latent demand for this type of Federal program. In TIGER rounds one through five, the U.S. DOT received more than 5,300 project proposals, seeking more than $115 billion, with between only 4 and 8 percent of grant applicants each year able to receive funding. In the current grant application round, the U.S. DOT has received nearly 800 applications, requesting $9.5 billion, with only $600 million to invest. That is a request of more than 15 times what can be awarded.

The bill before us would make the situation even worse. Next year, rather than doubling down on these essential transportation infrastructure investments as the President's budget request would do, the bill before us calls for dramatic funding decreases of over 80 percent to the TIGER program.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time House Republicans have tried to cut or eliminate TIGER funding. It is hard to escape the conclusion that this is another example of reflexive opposition to anything coming from the Obama administration, because this is, in fact, a model program in terms of stretching Federal dollars. TIGER programs have been catalysts that have leveraged Federal funds to secure further investment from the private sector and other sources. Each dollar invested through TIGER has leveraged 3.5 non-Federal dollars.

The projects that have received TIGER funding, along with those that are anxiously awaiting an award announcement, will help our local communities address transportation challenges, create good-paying jobs, spur local economic development, revive our city centers, and create regional integrated transportation solutions. We can do better than the bill before us today. Let's reexamine and restore the funding for these TIGER grants.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I must join with my colleagues Mr. PRICE and Mr. QUIGLEY. The reference here to the TIGER grant program is really almost incomprehensible in terms of what one would think Congress and even our friends in the Republican majority should be supporting. These are amongst the most popular programs that we have had in transportation, and the goal of the TIGER program was to maximize the impact. It required local communities

to come together, often across jurisdictional boundaries, to figure out how to leverage the most impact from this program.

Mr. PRICE referenced the heritage trail in Indianapolis. I have heard the mayor of Indianapolis give a spirited explanation of what difference that has made in the revitalization of that community. It is leveraging over $60 million to be able to improve the livability of Indianapolis. I was in Philadelphia, watching the program there, where the entire region came together for a $23 million program for bike and pedestrian, which would not be possible under the restrictions that the Republicans have inexplicably designed. Mr. LATHAM has a couple of TIGER grants in his district that would not be possible under this language. In Houston, a $200 million investment in bike and pedestrian trails has leveraged another $50 million from the private sector and is part of their effort to revitalize the downtown.

It is a formula that is used across the country—being able to give people more choices—but instead, the committee has decided that they know better than the mayor of Indianapolis, that they know better than local communities about what they need to be able to make a difference.

The irony is that the resources that are used for bike and pedestrian programs actually create more jobs than simply road construction. Talk to people around the country, as I have, about the ability to invest in making their children safer for cycling and pedestrian. It is not incidental. It is not something that should be just simply brushed aside.

Mr. Chairman, this is part of what we should be doing. I have got two of these projects in my district that have leveraged private investment, that are wildly supported by the public. It is why we are seeing that there are thousands of requests for only a couple of hundred slots. To dramatically reduce the spending and restrict what the local communities can use it for, I think, is misguided. It is a step in the wrong direction, and it is not where America is going. It is not what we are seeing in communities—large and small, red States and blue States. What they want is to be able to revitalize their communities, to keep young, talented professionals there, to give people more choices, to cut down on pollution, and to be able to maximize transportation investment.

I hope that this misguided language does not survive the legislative process. It would be a tragic mistake, and it is one that is actually going to end up undercutting some of the most progressive and energetic efforts we are seeing in communities, large and small. I respectfully urge my colleagues to think again—eliminate the restrictions, and look at where we are going to be able to maximize the impact. Where we are watching people in this Congress not willing to provide adequate resources for a transportation bill, we should be maximizing elements like the TIGER grants because we are going to need them more than ever.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1930

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the Republican Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2015. This bill drastically underfunds critical transportation and housing programs.

The bill's cuts to the TIGER program are particularly egregious. TIGER, formally known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, is a competitive grant program that creates jobs by funding investments in transportation infrastructure.

The Republican bill cuts TIGER from the 2014 level of $600 million down to a mere $100 million in 2015. Moreover, the bill includes restrictive language that limits TIGER grants by excluding public transit, passenger rail, bicycle, and pedestrian projects.

Public transit is an essential part of a modern transportation system. A previous TIGER grant helped the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to accelerate the construction of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor, a light rail project that will reduce traffic congestion and improve transportation service in my district.

Under the bill's restrictive language, this innovative project would never have qualified for a grant.

TIGER needs to be expanded, not restricted, not cut. The President requested $1.25 billion for TIGER in fiscal year 2015 in order to create jobs and modernize our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee urging support for the President's request, and 144 Members of Congress signed my letter.

I urge my colleagues to strike the restrictive language in this bill, expand the TIGER program, and invest in a transportation system for the 21st century.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, the appropriations bill before us includes only $100 million for the National Infrastructure Investment grants, otherwise known as TIGER grants. This is an 83 percent cut to this critical investment. This wrongheaded and foolish slashing of infrastructure monies will cost us far more than the money saved.

TIGER grants have invested, as my colleagues have pointed out, in road, in rail, transit, and port projects that achieve vital national objectives all across this great Nation.

Yet, the bill before us not only imposes a savage cut to the program, it restricts the use of these grants to highway, bridge, port, and freight rail intermodal projects only. It says that these are the only projects that can get done, meaning that transit, passenger rail, bike and pedestrian paths would no longer be eligible.

Mr. Chairman, we face an infrastructure crisis in this country. The American Society of Civil Engineers has estimated that we need to invest $3.6 trillion by 2020 to bring our Nation's infrastructure back to good condition.

We also face a job crisis in this country, and TIGER creates jobs. A study last year on the Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment found that every $1 billion invested supports 21,800 jobs, and these are jobs that cannot be outsourced. It generates $3 billion of additional business sales, and $432 million in Federal, State, and local tax revenues.

We need to invest in our national infrastructure. We need to support projects that make our communities more livable and sustainable.

In this project's history, we have found that so many of our colleagues in Arkansas and Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, Arizona, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and, yes, Connecticut, Georgia, Utah, Washington State, Idaho, Florida, Virginia, Maine, California, Nevada, North Carolina, many of whom have received more than one TIGER grant, with the results that, the reason why they wanted these grants was because, in fact, it does make that investment in infrastructure. It creates jobs and creates future economic growth.

TIGER grants are an excellent way to do this that make our communities more livable, more sustainable, and we should support them. I urge my colleagues to oppose this deep and this dangerous cut.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, first I wish to dedicate my remarks tonight in memory of our former colleague, James Oberstar, who knew the transportation system of this Nation like the back of his hand. And I know the first thing he would say if he were down here. He would say transportation investment, infrastructure investment is the largest job creator that this Congress and this Nation can provide to the American people.

Infrastructure creates jobs. It is the highest form of development we can give to the American people. What are they asking this Congress for?

They are asking us for jobs, and they are asking us to fix the roads. Every

place I go the public is complaining about potholes because of the bad winter in the part of the country that I represent.

We know, where do these jobs come from? The construction industry, the landscape industry, the paving industry, the fencing industry, the stone quarries, the concrete manufacturers. The list is endless.

In public transit we are talking about building rail cars to serve a growing population. America isn't declining in population. By 2050 we will have 500 million people in this country, up from 310 million today.

So communities across our country are asking for our help. They asked for $9.5 billion in high-priority infrastructure projects just this year, 15 times more than the current funding.

So what does the majority do?

They cut the current funding by 80 percent, down to $100 million, when the American people are saying—the mayors, the county commissioners, the Governors across this country—help us out.

TIGER has proven to be a successful program. It is not stove-piped. It is multimodal.

The Vice President, Vice President BIDEN just visited Cleveland. What did he see? The largest transit point in Ohio, where Amtrak comes right next to the major switching stations for all of the rail cars that serve Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland is waiting. It is only one of hundreds of places in America that are waiting for this Congress to do what the public wants us to do, and that is build this country forward.

Underinvestment will only hurt our people and cost us more in the long run. We know TIGER works.

The President recommended doubling the current funding to $1.25 billion, up from 600 to $800 million, to begin to meet the needs of our country. But remember, I said the public was asking for $9.5 billion.

TIGER has provided already $3.5 billion for 270 critical infrastructure projects across 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

In prior years, we know that transit and rail passenger projects have received only about one quarter of TIGER funds available, and there is typically no other predictable dedicated funding source for this type of project.

Without TIGER, and a few other Federal programs, mass transit and the shape of our Nation's highway system and rail system would be so much worse.

Americans increasingly look to this Congress and say, what are they worth?

This is one of the places where we should be worth something for the American people. So we rise tonight to say this is really a misguided decision. We need to take funds from elsewhere.

We send funds all over the world. We are building dams in Afghanistan. Who is going to take care of it after we leave?

Hundreds of millions of dollars in other places, and yet our own people are having to go get their cars realigned and buy new suspension systems because they are having to ride through all these potholes all over the country.

We ought to do our job. We ought to find a way to fund this program and repair this country from one end to the other.

I ask myself: If we had to build the Hoover Dam again, would this feckless Congress have the guts to do it?

So we have a problem like TIGER that, coast to coast, works. Where's the majority? Out to lunch.

No wonder the public doesn't have respect for the Congress of the United States. We are not at one with where the public is. The mayors are begging us. Our county commissioners are begging us. Our Governors are begging us. Our transit systems are saying measure up, Congress. Wake up. Wake up.

I rise in strong support of restoring the funding and, frankly, funding at the level that the President has proposed, $1.25 billion. But even that is only about one-seventh of what the country has asked for, so it is severely underfunded for the needs of the Nation.

We know it is the best job creator. We know it has a proven record, and we know the American people want it. What more do we need to know?

I can just hear Jim Oberstar talking to me now.

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

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Chairman, infrastructure investment creates jobs in southern Illinois and nationwide while repairing highways, bridges and mass transit. The TIGER grant program is critical to infrastructure investment. We must fully fund this program.

Two great examples of successful TIGER recipients are in southern Illinois. America's Central Port in Granite City, Illinois, which was a BRAC'd Army installation, has leveraged Federal dollars with State and local funding to connect rail lines and four interstate highways with the Mississippi River.

Because of that investment, there are more private jobs at America's Central Port today than government jobs when it was an Army support center.

Another Southern Illinois TIGER grant recipient, the Alton Regional Multimodal Transportation Center, will allow passenger transfers between high-speed Amtrak trains, regional transit, bicycle, and even pedestrian trails. TIGER not only creates jobs, but better ways to get to those jobs.

At a time when we need to grow our economy and invest in our infrastructure here at home, it is a mistake to cut this critical program. I urge my colleagues to restore its funding.

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, many of us here grew up in a time in this country when our parents and our politicians weren't afraid to invest in America.

I have been having a series of meetings, along with other Members here, with the inspector general for Afghanistan. He has 250 investigators. Of the last $100 billion in infrastructure that we have spent in Afghanistan, he can't find where the money has gone and/or where the projects have been completed.

Yet, here we are today, with bridges falling down, roads crumbling, and we are debating legislation that gives an 80 percent cut in our transportation needs, imposes severe restrictions onto a program that is so crucial to our long-term economic growth here in this country.

This program, the TIGER grant program, as you know, and the public needs to know, allows communities to compete for the funding of railroad upgrades, airport runways, highways, bridges, ports.

Recently, at a meeting with the Transportation Committee, we had about 10 transportation leaders from business and commerce before the committee, and I asked the question of every one of them—every one of them: Is there any disagreement here that our roads, our bridges are crumbling? No.

Make a note of it, Mr. Chairman.

Second question, is there anyone here who disagrees with the notion that this is jeopardizing our economic growth and our ability to create good-paying jobs and facilitate the advancement of business interests?

Nobody objects, Mr. Chairman. Make a note of it.

□ 1945

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, is there anybody here—now, mind you, all of the Democrats and Republicans were there. Is there anybody here on this committee that rejects the notion that we need to find more revenue for our transportation, our infrastructure, not less? Nobody disagreed.

So where does this notion come from that we should pass an 80 percent reduction in our TIGER grant program? Clearly, someone is not listening to the business and commercial interests in this country, and they are making a tragic and serious mistake.

Recently, Duluth Harbor, in my district, was a recipient of a $10 million grant. As a result of that, we were able to restore an abandoned pier, dredge the harbor, so that the Great Lakes freighters could access it and extend the rail and the highway transportation accessing the terminal.

We are losing $3 billion in business income a year through the Great Lakes because we are 10 years behind on the dredging. The Lakers are only operating at 80 percent of capacity. We are talking about real jobs. We are talking about real business income. We are talking about our future as a Nation.

Mr. Chairman, this bill does contain some good and necessary increases in funding, such as the FAA and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, but an 80 percent cut in this program that spurs innovation, that boosts American manufacturing, creates good-paying jobs, that is no way to invest in our future. That is no way to have a pro-growth, pro-jobs economy.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge all of my colleagues: Let's come together here. We have common ground. Let's be bipartisan. Let's reject this 80 percent cut.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (the ''Act'') $1,775,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2015 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9(j) regarding the extension of the time periods under such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such section 9(j), the term ''obligate'' means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future: *Provided further*, That up to $8,000,000 shall be to support ongoing Public Housing Financial and Physical Assessment activities: *Provided further*, That up to $5,000,000 shall be to support the costs of administrative and judicial receiverships: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, not to exceed $20,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to make grants, notwithstanding section 204 of this Act, to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading $45,000,000 shall be for supportive services, service coordinator and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437z–6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, up to $15,000,000 may be used for incentives as part of a Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: *Provided further*, That the funding provided under the previous proviso shall provide competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may set aside a portion of the funds provided for the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program to support the services element of the Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow PHAs to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 as necessary to implement the Jobs-Plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Secretary shall provide bonus awards in fiscal year 2015 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, this bill represents a massive step backward for transportation and infrastructure funding, reducing funds for rail, transit, and highway programs that our communities desperately need.

In addition to slashing TIGER grants by 80 percent, the bill restricts eligibility for these grants, effectively locking out public transportation and passenger rail projects from this critical funding stream.

In my district, Sonoma and Marin Counties have come together to support the SMART rail project. This is a new public transit project that will provide a critical service to commuters, to students going to school, to tourists that are visiting and spending money in the local economy.

The counties are putting a significant share forward in local funding. Over 90 percent of the cost of the project has come from these local sources, but they need the ability to access Federal assistance like TIGER grants to extend the first phase and close gaps in this important new system.

This bill puts roadblocks in the path that the SMART project and projects similar to it all over this country. In addition, this bill contains a rider blocking funding for California's high-speed rail project. We shouldn't undermine State and local efforts to invest in transportation infrastructure and to promote economic development, and I urge a ''no'' vote on this unwise and unwarranted bill.

With my remaining time, Mr. Chairman, I also want to encourage the FHA to expand their PowerSaver pilot program to address the unique condition of many Native American communities, where housing is often in great need and capital is difficult to access.

Congress should enable homeowners to make cost-effective energy-saving improvements to their houses. This body took an important step in 2009 by creating the PowerSaver pilot program, which has helped in financing and construction of energy-efficient homes.

Since that time, homeowners all over the country have taken advantage of the program, worked with private lenders to purchase ENERGY STAR-certified furnaces, air conditioners, improve insulation, and install solar units.

This, in turn, has spurred investment in our housing sector. It has created jobs and saved money for homeowners. These are goals all of us should support.

We should be expanding this program to Native American communities. Native American communities across the country, including the Karuk Tribe in my district, have embraced sustainable and energy-efficient housing. This is lowering their electrical bills, increasing the value of their homes, and reducing dependency on dirty energy sources.

To enable other tribes, though, to make similar investments in their homes, the FHA will need to make substantive changes to the PowerSaver program, and I am very pleased that this underlying bill that we are considering already demonstrates support for Native American communities by fully funding the Indian Housing Block Grant and section 184 programs, but I encourage the FHA to go further to build on that support by ensuring that these programs, like PowerSaver, are implemented with all communities in mind.

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

Ms. LEE of California. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. First, Mr. Chair, let me just say that I join my other colleagues in opposition to the drastic cuts that this bill sets forth for the TIGER program, as well as language that would prohibit important environmentally sustainable projects from competing for these grants.

We know that smart and targeted investments in infrastructure projects grow local economies, and they create good-paying jobs.

I know firsthand the effectiveness of this program in my own district, at the Port of Oakland, for example, and the East Bay Greenway, where local agencies have leveraged flexible TIGER grant funds to bring projects toward completion. These cuts now will reduce private sector investments, which are

essential to public-private partnerships.

These urban projects around the country need to be able to compete for this important source of funding, and these funding levels and policy provisions simply won't allow that to happen.

We spend billions, mind you, billions on infrastructure projects in Iraq and Afghanistan. Why not in our own country? TIGER grants allow us to nation-build here at home, and we need this desperately.

I look forward to working with our ranking member and our chair, so that we can fix the funding level as this bill goes to conference. I think we know on both sides of the aisle that these grants have created jobs and economic opportunities and have helped create and fix our infrastructure. It is very important that we fully fund these TIGER grants.

So, again, I thank the ranking member, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, this discussion tonight is, I think, exemplary of the dysfunctionality of this place. No matter whose fault it is, we are not serving the public.

I just came in from the break on a Third World road from Dulles Airport here to the Capitol, and if anybody wonders whether or not we are falling behind other countries, visit China. Look at the percentage of their GDP being spent on infrastructure compared to ours.

I would like to talk about what we call T-HUD, which affects Americans in every single State in this country.

There is no Republican road. There is no Democratic road. There is no Independent road or Tea Party road or Black Panther road. We all have to live in this Nation and function on the roads we build, and the only people on this planet—the only people on planet Earth who can make a decision about TIGER and our infrastructure are people who were elected to sit in this place. It is us.

In the first 4 years of TIGER, funds were awarded to all 50 States. TIGER funds are nearly evenly dispersed across the Central, South, West, North, and East regions of this great country. The Department of Transportation is required by statute to ensure TIGER funds are awarded to rural communities, as well as urban.

These grants are used to build highways, repair badly damaged bridges, and upgrade rail. They are used to help communities who are struggling in this period of economic recovery to make key investments in their infrastructure and bolster local economies.

This bill would decimate TIGER funding, destroying one of the most successful Federal programs in generating bottom-up transportation solutions to our Nation's crumbling infrastructure problem.

TIGER has made a tremendous impact in my district, and I can recall the names of projects, from the Green Impact Zone, Troost Avenue Bridge over Brush Creek, all of these improvements in the communities have made my congressional district better.

Then last year, TIGER provided $20 million to help finance the 2.2-mile streetcar project in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The streetcar project will encourage economic development and housing, and along the line, we will also see a whole new community being rebuilt.

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't know what is going to happen, but I do hope that we can make a decision that, at least on the infrastructure, we can put partisanship and this political tribalism to the side and do what is in the best interest of the American public.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 85, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,100,000)''.

Page 87, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $17,600,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $24,700,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I agree with my friend from Missouri that Congress is dysfunctional.

I am told by people that were here in the late seventies, eighties, nineties, that if a President started usurping power of the legislature, of the Congress, that very quietly, the leaders of the House and Senate from both parties would make a quick trip down Pennsylvania Avenue to tell the President that he either needed to stop usurping congressional authority, start living within the law, or quit being lawless, and that would have generally taken care of it, and it was a bipartisan and bicameral effort.

Unfortunately, this body is dysfunctional, when you look at the efforts to protect an administration that keeps acting lawlessly.

I would like to have had accurate numbers showing the percentage of section 8 housing that is being provided to people illegally; that is, providing section 8 housing to people who are not authorized, who are getting that housing against the law, mainly people illegally here, but the last official numbers that my staff and I could find go back to the January 1, 2009.

Under the Bush administration, 0.4 percent of section 8 housing was going to people illegally. In other words, it was illegally going to people because they were not authorized to be here.

There are indications from a report in 2010 that it increased to 1.17 percent, but, Mr. Chairman, I just felt that it was imperative for us to send a message: if you are not going to provide the housing to Americans who desperately need it and you are going to continue to provide housing to people who are not legally authorized to have that housing, then we will make a small cut here.

Then we will get more accurate numbers in the future, and we will continue to cut the program until the Department of Housing and Urban Development gets serious about making sure that only people authorized under the law to have the section 8 housing get it.

So we took four-tenths of a percent times that set-aside for the Public Housing Capital Fund at line 3 and the same percentage from the Public Housing Operating Fund at line 24, page 87, and then added that to the spending reduction account.

Why? Because this generation has shown that we are immoral. We, like no other generation before us, are spending lavishly on our own generation without regard for the massive millstone—or albatross, if you prefer—around future generations' necks. That is immoral. That is immoral that we cannot live within our means, and we would cast that upon future generations.

So with that, I would argue for the passage of this amendment. It does not legislate. It simply appropriates a more appropriate amount.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. I appreciate very much the gentleman raising the issue.

I think we should remember, this is an appropriation bill. It is a funding bill. It is not an authorizing bill. This is an issue that should be dealt with by the committee of jurisdiction, which needs to make a lot of changes at HUD. There is no question about it.

□ 2000

This is a funding bill, and, Mr. Chairman, we have already made tough, responsible choices in the bill, and we have already cut the Public Housing Capital Fund by $100 million below last year. So while the gentleman wants to cut a little bit more, I understand that, but the fact of the matter is we are down $100 million from last year.

The Public Housing Operating Fund is held at last year's level of $4.4 billion. I really think to cut any more out of this could possibly pose a risk to the health and safety of our housing capital.

For those reasons, again, I appreciate the gentleman's bringing the issue forward, it is an authorizing issue, and on this, as a funding bill, I would urge a ''no'' vote. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I also rise in opposition. As the chairman has outlined, both funds are either underfunded or at the same level, and the consequence of additional cuts will probably cause many, many individuals who qualify for public housing to either leave public housing or not be able then to enter. For those reasons, we oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. I rise today to express my opposition to the funding priorities in this appropriations bill. While I am supportive of advancing the appropriations bills in a timely manner, this bill underfunds many important programs and initiatives, including TIGER grants, the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program, housing assistance, and our rail and transportation initiative.

In Connecticut, community leaders in Waterbury and Meriden have applied for TIGER grants to undertake important improvement projects in their cities. TIGER grants are critical for our communities to leverage Federal funds to create lasting, substantial improvements. But, unfortunately, this bill underfunds the TIGER grant program. This bill funds TIGER grants at $500 million less than last year, and $1.15 billion less than the President's request. TIGER grants are essential to provide that leverage for our State and local communities to make those choices about what will create jobs and allow those created jobs we have be something people can get to by using the highways, as my colleagues have already mentioned the difficulty, particularly in the Northeast, with our aging infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the TIGER provisions of the bill, one of the most important, life-saving programs is the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction program. Approximately 23 million U.S. households have significant lead-based paint hazards. The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction program gives funds for lead abatement in low-income communities, where the combination of lead paint and inadequate nutrition makes young children particularly vulnerable to learning disabilities.

I am disappointed that this bill funds that program at $40 million below last year and $50 million less than the President's budget request. With 23 million households still having significant exposure to lead-based paint, we must fully fund this program to protect our children and young families.

In Connecticut, we are still recovering from the recession, and we have the seventh-most-expensive housing market in the country. In Danbury, an individual making the minimum wage—which is higher in Connecticut than Federal minimum wage—would need 3.5 full-time jobs to afford a two-bedroom rental apartment.

That is why HUD's public housing and housing choice vouchers are essential in my State and my community, and why it is so disappointing that HUD is not funded at a level to restore the housing vouchers that were lost during sequestration.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we need to get serious about investing in our highways and rail infrastructure. Just last Friday, the railroad bridge in Norwalk, Connecticut, failed, stranding thousands of passengers, including our colleague, Congressman JIM HIMES. The bridge—which was built in 1895—is now 118 years old and in desperate need of repair. Earlier today, the entire Connecticut delegation sent a letter to the Department of Transportation asking that the State receive funding to repair this very old and crumbling bridge. We should not have to wait until the bridge falls down or the train derails to repair our country's infrastructure. Unfortunately, this bill does not adequately fund the needs of the Federal Transit Administration.

Until we do our job together in this body and fully fund the Department of Transportation, our bridges and roads will continue to fail. These are, indeed, tough budgetary times, but we must fund our transportation and housing programs to protect and to serve the constituents we represent.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, in addition to all of the other problems that my colleagues have cited, this bill would exclude walking, biking, and transit projects from TIGER funding, wrongly suggesting that these are not crucial parts of our transportation network. Rails to trails projects, like the one championed by the Mount Washington Valley Trails Association in New Hampshire, are innovative and important. According to Transportation for America, more than 11 percent of all trips are made by biking, and more than 12 percent by walking. We should continue to invest in transportation infrastructure that our constituents rely on and keep this TIGER program strong.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

For 2015 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), $4,400,000,000.

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

For competitive grants under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), unless otherwise specified under this heading), for transformation, rehabilitation, and replacement housing needs of both public and HUD-assisted housing and to transform neighborhoods of poverty into functioning, sustainable mixed income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs, $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That grant funds may be used for resident and community services, community development, and affordable housing needs in the community, and for conversion of vacant or foreclosed properties to affordable housing: *Provided further*, That the use of funds made available under this heading shall not be deemed to be public housing notwithstanding section 3(b)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That grantees shall commit to an additional period of affordability determined by the Secretary of not fewer than 20 years: *Provided further*, That grantees shall undertake comprehensive local planning with input from residents and the community, and that grantees shall provide a match in State, local, other Federal or private funds: *Provided further*, That grantees may include local governments, tribal entities, public housing authorities, and nonprofits: *Provided further*, That for-profit developers may apply jointly with a public entity: *Provided further*, That such grantees shall create partnerships with other local organizations including assisted housing owners, service agencies, and resident organizations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of Education, Labor, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Commerce, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate and leverage other appropriate Federal resources: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances remaining from funds appropriated under this heading and the heading ''Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI)'' in fiscal year 2014 and prior fiscal years may be used for purposes under this heading notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this paragraph may be used for a grant to a recipient that has previously received a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative implementation grant.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

For the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8(o) and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, $75,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary may, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under subsections b(3), b(4), b(5), or c(1) of section 23 of such Act in order for public housing agencies, owners and the Department to administer and to facilitate the operation of a unified self-sufficiency program for individuals receiving assistance under different provisions of the Act, as determined by the Secretary.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS

For the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), $650,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to determine the amount of the allocation under title I of such Act for each Indian tribe, the Secretary shall apply the formula under section 302 of such Act with the need component based on single-race census data and with the need component based on multi-race census data, and the amount of the allocation for each Indian tribe shall be the greater of the two resulting allocation amounts: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $3,000,000 shall be contracted for assistance for national or regional organizations representing Native American housing interests for providing training and technical assistance to Indian housing authorities and tribally designated housing entities as authorized under NAHASDA: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under the previous proviso, not less than $2,000,000 shall be made available for a national organization as authorized under section 703 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4212): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $2,000,000 shall be to support the inspection of Indian housing units, contract expertise, training, and technical assistance in the training, oversight, and management of such Indian housing and tenant-based assistance, including up to $300,000 for related travel: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading, $2,000,000 shall be made available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $16,530,000: *Provided further*, That the Department will notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, notwithstanding section 302(d) of NAHASDA, if on January 1, 2015, a recipient's total amount of undisbursed block grants in the Department's line of credit control system is greater than three times the formula allocation it would otherwise receive under this heading, the Secretary shall adjust that recipient's formula allocation down by the difference between its total amount of undisbursed block grants in the Department's line of credit control system on January 1, 2015, and three times the formula allocation it would otherwise receive: *Provided further*, That grant amounts not allocated to a recipient pursuant to the previous proviso shall be allocated under the need component of the formula proportionately among all other Indian tribes not subject to an adjustment: *Provided further*, That the two previous provisos shall not apply to any Indian tribe that would otherwise receive a formula allocation of less than $5,000,000: *Provided further*, That to take effect, the three previous provisos do not require the issuance of any regulation.

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z-13a), $8,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs 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, up to $1,200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That up to $750,000 of this amount may be for administrative contract expenses including management processes and systems to carry out the loan guarantee program.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), $305,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, except that amounts allocated pursuant to section 854(c)(3) of such Act shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that initially were funded under section 854(c)(3) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements before awarding funds for new contracts under such section, and if amounts provided under this heading pursuant to such section are insufficient to fund renewals for all such expiring contracts, then amounts made available under this heading for formula grants pursuant to section 854(c)(1) shall be used to provide the balance of such renewal funding before awarding funds for such formula grants: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 93, line 21, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $29,100,000)''.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $29,100,000)''.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $29,100,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, since 1992, the Housing Opportunity for Persons With Aids, or HOPWA, has provided a vital safety net for people living with HIV/AIDS. In the United States, 50,000 people become infected with HIV every year, and 1.1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. More than 500,000 of those individuals will need some form of housing assistance during the course of their illness, but 145,000 of these individuals will have unmet housing needs.

Housing interventions are critical in our continued fight against HIV/AIDS, and research clearly shows that stable housing leads to better health outcomes. Inadequately or unstably housed individuals are less likely to access routine medical care and more likely to rely on costly emergency and acute care that leads to far higher health care costs. Providing stable housing to people with HIV/AIDS has an immediate impact on the health outcomes, reducing the risk of transmission to a partner by 96 percent, reducing emergency room visits by 36 percent, and reducing hospitalizations by 57 percent. In other words, investing a modest amount in HOPWA today saves us millions, if not billions, of Federal taxpayer dollars in the future, not to mention many lives.

HOPWA is the only Federal program to provide cities and States with dedicated resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS. And yet, despite the bipartisan agreement on HOPWA's effectiveness and the clear need for additional funding, this legislation provides only $305.9 million for HOPWA in FY15, a cut of more than $24 million from last year, and pushes HOPWA funding below its fiscal year 2008 funding levels, despite an estimated 300,000 people being newly infected with HIV since that time. At this abysmally low funding level, thousands of families and individuals will lose access to HOPWA and face dire health consequences.

My amendment would stop this devastating cut by increasing HOPWA funding by $29.1 million and restoring the program to $335 billion, the level it received 5 years ago in fiscal year 2010. I recognize $29 million may sound small by Federal budgeting standards, but this additional funding will ensure that those families and individuals who rely on HOPWA for secure, stable housing will not suddenly find themselves back on the street with no access to lifesaving medical treatment.

To protect those living with HIV/AIDS and to stay within the House rules, my amendment offsets this additional funding through cuts to HUD's Information Technology fund. I recognize—I recognize—the importance of providing HUD with phones and computers, but nothing is more important, quite simply, than saving lives. We must pass this amendment and give those families battling HIV/AIDS a fighting chance.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I appreciate very much the gentleman's effort to help more vulnerable households by increasing funding for HOPWA, but I simply cannot support this amendment.

The increase is offset by a more than 30 percent reduction in funding for HUD's information technology systems. These systems are critical to HUD's ability to oversee billions of dollars in grants, subsidies, and loans. Many HUD systems are antiquated and require significant maintenance and investment to keep operating. A cut of this magnitude would undermine the

agency's ability to function, so I would urge a ''no'' vote and also remind folks that there is $305 million for HOPWA in the bill already, a slight reduction from last year, but with our allocation, very significant funding for this program.

So I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NADLER. 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 New York will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to units of State and local government, and to other entities, for economic and community development activities, and for other purposes, $3,060,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, unless otherwise specified: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided, $3,000,000,000 is for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (the ''Act'' herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.): *Provided further*, That unless explicitly provided for under this heading, not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this heading shall be expended for planning and management development and administration: *Provided further*, That a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives funds under this heading may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another such entity in exchange for any other funds, credits or non-Federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for grants for the Economic Development Initiative (''EDI'') or Neighborhood Initiatives activities, Rural Innovation Fund, or for grants pursuant to section 107 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5307): *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That $60,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 204 of this Act), up to $3,960,000 may be used for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAPITO

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 94, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

Page 94, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

Page 97, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $100,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment which would increase funding for a program critical for the development of our local communities.

The Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, has been essential to helping our local communities address critical needs and improve residents' quality of life. Many of these communities struggle to find funds to improve lower-income or underutilized areas, and the CDGB is a lifesaver for these towns.

In my home State of West Virginia, this program has funded critical sewer and infrastructure projects, improving residents' health and their quality of life. More than 92,000 West Virginians have benefited from $71 million in Community Development Block Grants over the last 5 years. It is invaluable to rural States like West Virginia.

Despite its proven track record, funding for the CDBG program has been cut every year. As we prioritize programs in this appropriations bill, it is my belief that the CDBG program and the residents it helps should be considered a priority. In this era of fiscal restraint and responsibility, we must use taxpayer dollars where they can have the most impact, and my amendment would increase the CDBG by $100 million, redirecting $100 million from the troubled HOME program.

□ 2015

This redirection makes my amendment budget-neutral. While the HOME program has had some success, the evidence shows it is a program struggling from dubious oversight that has been slow to adapt to improvements that have been suggested by the Government Accountability Office.

States are not even using all of their HOME funds. Last year, HUD recaptured $16 million from States who didn't spend the funds that were granted. In the State of West Virginia, HUD has recaptured millions of dollars, and HUD officials have told me that the HOME program is scheduled to have even more funds recaptured due to inactivity.

It is clear that the HOME program has more than enough money, and we should be reallocating these funds towards programs that work, like the CDBG. It is a vital program, and I ask my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), who is a staunch supporter of CDBG.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

During meetings held the past 3 years with West Virginia government officials, they consistently state that the money for infrastructure upgrades like sewer and water lines is an absolute priority. The program that funds these projects is what the gentlewoman said, the Community Development Block Grant, known as CDBG.

This amendment would provide much-needed funding for CDBG and provide vital funds for improving sewer and water lines throughout America, rehabilitating public buildings, and assisting economic development initiatives.

The past 2 years and, again, this year, President Obama has cut crucial funding to the CDBG program. Therefore, I am honored to work with my fellow colleague from West Virginia, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, on an amendment to once again put the money back into this program that the President took away.

Mr. Chairman, the CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of Americans, thousands of people all across West Virginia, and this country. That is why, even in difficult financial times, we must make sure that the CDBG is fully funded. I urge support of this amendment.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for his support. We know, in rural States like West Virginia, how important this program is, not to fund entire projects, but to backfill and frontfill projects that absolutely would not get done without the great help of the communities joining together and using the CDBG funds in the proper and right fashion to enhance the quality of life for so many across this country.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I think we should keep in mind that we have $3 billion in the Community Development Block Grant account. That is slightly less than last year by $30 million, but there are $3 billion in that.

I appreciate the gentlewoman's effort to increase funding, but the offset for that increase is a $100 million reduction to the HOME program, which is already reduced by $300 million, so we are already cutting HOME by $300 million from the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

It is important to remember that, just a few years ago, the HOME program was funded at $1.6 billion. In this bill, it will be at $700 million, so it is less than half of what it was at that time.

The program is targeted to the development of affordable housing that benefits low-income families, and we don't believe, at this point, a further reduction is warranted. So while I appreciate the benefits of the block grants, I must urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, while I support the intention of

the amendment—I am a supporter of CDBG—the program that the Member seeks to increase is one that is worthwhile and successful, and if we had a better allocation, we would have provided more for CDBG.

However, I must rise in opposition to the amendment because of the offset. It is my hope that we can improve the funding levels of this bill as we conference with the Senate.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPITO. 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 West Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 94, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $200,000,000)''.

Page 94, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $200,000,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $200,000,000)''

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, two of my colleagues just came asking to increase the Community Development Block Grant program by $100 million, and actually, the bill itself has an increase above the President's request by $200 million.

Sometimes, I agree with the President, and sometimes, I don't; and this is one time I do agree with the President. The President only requested $2.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program, and this bill would appropriate $3 billion.

So my amendment would remove the $200 million increase over the Obama administration's FY 2015 budgetary request—and only increase—from the Community Development Block Grant program and transfer that amount to the spending reduction account. Why the committee has chosen to go above and beyond what even the President has requested fails me.

Mr. Chairman, the Community Development Block Grant program is one of the most wasteful and ineffective programs found within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was originally proposed by President Gerald Ford in his effort to revitalize decaying and low-income neighborhoods in American cities and towns.

Unfortunately, CDBG has strayed from its original purpose. Today, many of these grants have been diverted to wasteful, parochial projects, such as funding a pet shampoo company, issuing risky business loans, paying for renovation of a wealthy multinational architectural company, and I can go on and on.

I am not asking that we eliminate this program or even drastically cut its funding. Mr. Chairman, I am simply asking that we do not increase this funding above what the President has asked for and that we put the rest of this large increase toward paying down our Nation's debt. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. This is obviously just the opposite of the previous amendment in the reduction of our proposed amount of $3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant.

This amendment would accept the President's proposal to cut $230 million from the Community Development Block Grant program. Our bill already has a small reduction, $30 million, from what was enacted last year.

The CDBG program provides critical funding to State and local jurisdictions for affordable housing, economic development, and public service projects such as homeless shelters.

What is great about the program is that the grants are very flexible, which empowers jurisdictions to identify and fund investments that meet local priorities. Also, these funds often attract significant coinvestment from private and other non-Federal sources.

CDBG is an important source of Federal partnership and support in many of our jurisdictions, and so I must urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I would tell my colleague from Georgia: if there is one line item in this bill that has bipartisan support in terms of keeping the program and funding it at this level, this is it.

So I would tell him that even I, because of the bipartisan agreement, that I would rise in opposition to his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 94, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000)''.

Page 94, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $20,000,000)''

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I will try again. This amendment is much like my previous amendment.

As I noted before, this bill provides for a $200 million increase above the President's request in the Community Development Block Grant program, by his request, the President's request, the Democratic President's request for the FY 2015 budget.

My previous amendment would have removed that $200 million increase above the President's request in its entirety. This amendment just cuts 10 percent of that increase above the President's request, $20 million—which is a lot of money to most Georgians, it seems to be not a lot of money around here, but it is a lot of money to me—and it transfers that sum to the spending reduction account.

Mr. Chairman, I spoke earlier about wasteful spending being funded by the Community Development Block Grant program, and I would like to take this opportunity to provide some examples.

The State of Nebraska has directed approximately $500,000 in taxpayer funds, hard-earned money, from the CDBG grant program to a pet shampoo company.

The State of Vermont has directed $255,000 of its Federally-funded Community Development Block Grant to support a program for graduates for the Center of Cartoon Studies.

The Community Development Block Grant program has provided $356,000 to pay for infrastructure improvements for a meat snack manufacturer that makes beef jerky.

Mr. Chairman, I love pets—particularly dogs—I love cartoons, and I really like beef jerky, and I like these things as much as anyone, but I fail to see how it is appropriate for the Federal Government to provide taxpayer money to fund these projects.

Again, I am not asking to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant program or even cut its funding below the FY 2014 levels.

Obviously, my amendment to cut out the increase above the President's requested amount to CDBG failed. Now, I am just asking to cut out just 20 percent of that increase above the President's level.

So if my colleagues cannot bring themselves to cut the entire $200 million increase over the President's budget request, then let's cut at least one small percentage of that increase, just 10 percent, and save the American taxpayers $20 million. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I will not go through the merits of the program again, but the fact of the matter

is we are $30 million less than the enacted level from last year, so there is a reduction in the account.

A lot of people would say ''unfortunately,'' but there is, in fact, a reduction, and for that reason, I would oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I also rise in opposition to the amendment and oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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 Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2015, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of $500,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in subsection (k) of such section 108: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for guaranteeing such loans, and any such fees shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That all unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading are hereby permanently rescinded.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME investment partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, $700,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the amount made available under this heading, the threshold reduction requirements in sections 216(10) and 217(b)(4) of such Act shall not apply to allocations of such amount: *Provided further*, That the requirements under provisos 2 through 6 under this heading for fiscal year 2012 and such requirements applicable pursuant to the ''Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013'', shall not apply to any project to which funds were committed on or after August 23, 2013, but such projects shall instead be governed by the Final Rule titled ''Home Investment Partnerships Program; Improving Performance and Accountability; Updating Property Standards'' which became effective on such date: *Provided further*, That funds provided in prior appropriations Acts for technical assistance, which were made available for Community Housing Development Organizations technical assistance, and which still remain available, may be used for HOME technical assistance, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to $10,000,000 shall be made available to the Self-help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended (42 U.S.C. 12805 note).

CAPACITY BUILDING

For the second, third, and fourth capacity building activities authorized under section 4(a) of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), $35,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which not less than $5,000,000 shall be made available for rural capacity-building activities. In addition, $5,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations with experience assessing national rural conditions and providing financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local non-profits, local governments, and Indian Tribes serving high-need rural communities.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the emergency solutions grants program as authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended; the continuum of care program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act; and the rural housing stability assistance program as authorized under subtitle D of title IV of such Act, $2,105,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under such continuum of care program shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That not less than $200,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such emergency solutions grants program: *Provided further*, That not less than $1,800,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such continuum of care and rural housing stability assistance programs: *Provided further*, That up to $5,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: *Provided further*, That all funds awarded for supportive services under the continuum of care program and the rural housing stability assistance program shall be matched by not less than 25 percent in cash or in kind by each grantee: *Provided further*, That for all match requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading for this fiscal year and prior years, a grantee may use (or could have used) as a source of match funds other funds administered by the Secretary and other Federal agencies unless there is (or was) a specific statutory prohibition on any such use of any such funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may renew on an annual basis expiring contracts or amendments to contracts funded under the continuum of care program if the program is determined to be needed under the applicable continuum of care and meets appropriate program requirements, performance measures, and financial standards, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That all awards of assistance under this heading shall be required to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible, including Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, and services funding through the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant, Workforce Investment Act, and the Welfare-to-Work grant program: *Provided further*, That all balances for Shelter Plus Care renewals previously funded from the Shelter Plus Care Renewal account and transferred to this account shall be available, if recaptured, for continuum of care renewals in fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That with respect to funds provided under this heading for the continuum of care program for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 provision of permanent housing rental assistance may be administered by private nonprofit organizations: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation from amounts allocated (which may represent initial or final amounts allocated) for the emergency solutions grant program within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

□ 2030

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 99, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, this town, this Congress, spends a lot of money to alleviate the pain of poverty, of homelessness, and hunger, but a majority of that money is focused on urban centers. I don't take issue with that. There is a lot of poverty in the urban parts of our country. But so often, the rural parts of America are forgotten.

I have to tell you, coming from rural America, the pain of poverty is just as great, and it affects our communities in rural America just like in urban America. Oftentimes, it can be a lot more complicated, poverty in rural America.

The face of poverty is different in rural America. Instead of having families living on the street, oftentimes we see neighbors, two, three families move into a single-room apartment so they can give their kids shelter.

Last year I hosted a homelessness and hunger summit where I brought in people who provide food and shelter for folks in rural Wisconsin. We had a conversation about what we can do better out of Washington to help them address the pain of this poverty in our community. In regard to the homeless shelters, their main point was that they need flexibility so that they can address the risks of homelessness in our community.

In 2009, a program was included in the HEARTH Act called the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program. This program allows rural communities to serve individuals that don't necessarily meet HUD's definition of homelessness but are, in fact, without a stable home of their own.

My amendment is very simple and doesn't cost a lot of money. It would

allow $10 million to be made available for the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program.

Now, take a look at how much money we spend on homelessness—$2.1 billion. My amendment asks for $10 million to be used for the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program. Let's not forget rural America.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DUFFY. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. The gentleman makes a very compelling argument, and we would accept the amendment.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, with that, I think this is important. I appreciate the chairman's support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk, Conyers No. 1.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 99, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, ladies and gentlemen, this amendment seeks to increase funding for the National Homeless Data Analysis Project by $2 million. This requested increase from $5 million to $7 million is consistent with both the President's budget request and the appropriations bill the Senate reported out of the committee late last week.

The level of funding provided for in this bill falls below not just requested amounts, but also below the current enacted amount for this program. My amendment amount would solve this discrepancy.

Mr. Chair, homelessness is not only corrosive to individual lives, but also to our national character. It is unthinkable that more than a million people routinely go homeless in the most prosperous nation this world has ever known.

In the struggle to eliminate homelessness, the National Homeless Data Analysis Project is essential. In 2001, Congress directed HUD to ''take the lead on data collection'' on homelessness, and the result was this project. It provides critical resources to communities to improve data collection, reporting, and integration of data with other Federal funding streams.

Over the past decade, the data collection, integration, and reporting produced by this project has allowed HUD and other agencies to move away from using largely anecdotal and often inconsistent evidence to using quality data for policy decisions.

At the end of the day, no matter which side of the aisle we sit on, this is the type of initiative we should all support. Better information leads to better decisionmaking and, ultimately, better policy outcomes, particularly in times of shrinking budgets.

In a policy arena as important as homeless assistance, this House cannot afford to underfund enhanced data collection initiatives. A vote for this amendment is a vote for smarter use of Federal funds and a vote to make every homeless assistance program better targeted and more effective.

In my own district, homelessness is a chronic problem. In the Detroit area during 2012, over 19,000 people were homeless at some point. That figure includes nearly 4,000 children. In order to help them, however, we need to understand the circumstances that have forced them onto the streets.

The 6,000 homeless families with children in Detroit have different needs than homeless adults. Certain similarities between those who are homeless because of unaffordable housing and those who are homeless because of mental illness or domestic violence may hide the critical differences that prevent help from achieving its intended goal.

I fully support any project that would lead to a better accounting of the real experiences of the poorest people in my district or anyone else's and ultimately result in better decisionmaking in the provision and administration of Federal homeless assistance programs. I hope and feel certain that my colleagues feel the same.

This measure is, quite simply, about good government. This measure is not a budget increase. This amendment would simply grant discretion to allocate up to $2 million of the already existing funding in the bill for homelessness assistance grants to the National Homeless Data Analysis Project. It would not increase the overall appropriations under the heading for homelessness assistance grants. Under the $2.1 billion heading for homelessness assistance grant, there is still approximately $100 million in flexibility.

I urge support for the National Homeless Data Analysis Project. I urge support for smarter usage of Federal funds; and I urge support for enhanced policy outcomes. I thank you for the time, and I hope that we can pass this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT

(RESCISSION)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading are hereby permanently rescinded.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I want to first off thank my good friend from Iowa, Chairman LATHAM, for the hard work he has put into this bill. There is a matter that I think we are going to have to do some more work on.

The Federal Government, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, each year allocates a significant amount of taxpayer dollars to public housing authorities to provide affordable and safe housing for those in need.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, some public housing authorities, executives of public housing authorities, are taking home excessively generous compensation packages each year, partly paid for with Federal dollars. One needs to look no further than the public housing authority in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Raleigh Housing Authority, to see an example of excessive compensation.

Audits that I requested from both the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Raleigh Housing Authority itself have brought to light this fundamental problem with compensation. When the executive director of the Raleigh Housing Authority manages a housing authority that ranks somewhere near 400th in terms of overall size but still receives a total compensation package, Mr. Chairman, that puts him in the top ten of all public housing authority directors in terms of salary and other benefits, it certainly raises some red flags to me.

Following the disclosure of the executive director's compensation package, which brought about outrage from the local community and Congress, the Raleigh Housing Authority board made what amounts to cosmetic changes to their compensation practices—which still flout Congress' intent, in my opinion.

Mr. Chairman, I commend Chairman LATHAM and the T-HUD subcommittee for including provision section 227 in the base text that continues a cap on how many Federal dollars public housing authorities can use to compensate a chief executive officer or any other official or employee of a public housing authority. So I commend for that. I want to thank the chairman for his work on this issue and hope we can examine additional measures that Congress can take to ensure that public housing authorities serve the public.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSING PROGRAMS

PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (''the Act''), not otherwise provided for, $9,346,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2014 (in addition to the $400,000,000 previously appropriated under

this heading that became available October 1, 2014), and $400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2015: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to approved plans of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and other expenses associated with project-based activities and assistance funded under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the total amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed $210,000,000 shall be available for assistance agreements with performance-based contract administrators for section 8 project-based assistance, for carrying out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may also use such amounts in the previous proviso for performance-based contract administrators for the administration of: interest reduction payments pursuant to section 236(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(a)); rent supplement payments pursuant to section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s); section 236(f)(2) rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(f)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); project rental assistance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86–372; 73 Stat. 667); and loans under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86–372; 73 Stat. 667): *Provided further*, That amounts recaptured under this heading, the heading ''Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing'', or the heading ''Housing Certificate Fund'', may be used for renewals of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts or for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based Housing Assistance Payments contract that authorizes HUD or a Housing Finance Agency to require that surplus project funds be deposited in an interest-bearing residual receipts account and that are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amount otherwise provided by this heading for uses authorized under this heading.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

For amendments to capital advance contracts for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, and for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, and for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, as amended, and for supportive services associated with the housing, $420,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, up to $70,000,000 shall be for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects: *Provided further*, That amounts under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 202 projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the initial contract term for such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration.

HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For amendments to capital advance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act and for project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86–372; 73 Stat. 667), including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for project rental assistance to State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities as authorized under section 811(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Housing Act, and for supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811(b)(1) of such Act, $135,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects.

HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, $47,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, including up to $4,500,000 for administrative contract services: *Provided*, That grants made available from amounts provided under this heading shall be awarded within 180 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That funds shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management/literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training.

RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

For amendments to contracts under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s) and section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1) in State-aided, noninsured rental housing projects, $28,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount, together with unobligated balances from recaptured amounts appropriated prior to fiscal year 2006 from terminated contracts under such sections of law, and any unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated under this heading after fiscal year 2005, shall also be available for extensions of up to one year for expiring contracts under such sections of law.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 106, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,000,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $7,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will remove the $7 million increase over current spending levels, this year, fiscal year 2014 funding levels, to the rental housing assistance account to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and transfer that amount to the spending reduction account.

□ 2045

I understand that times are tough nationwide. They are tough for families, they are tough for businesses, and everyone has had to cut back. Unfortunately, the fact remains that we as our Nation are in an incredible amount of debt. It is an unsustainable amount of debt.

Let me be clear, I am not asking that we cut funding for this program at all above this year's level. I am just asking that we simply hold the line—fund what we have been funding, not increase it, as proposed by this legislation.

I think it is irresponsible to continue expanding programs without being able to pay for them. We are in an economic emergency as a Nation. We are headed to an economic collapse of America if we don't stop spending money that we don't have. We have to restore fiscal sanity to Washington.

I am just asking that we hold the line on this program. Cut the $7 million increase that is proposed. I think that is reasonable. It is not a cut over current funding; it is holding the line.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I must oppose the gentleman's amendment.

The bill funds rental housing assistance at $28 million. This is the amount necessary to fund the 18,000 existing long-term project-based rental assistance contracts. This will ensure that these units remain available to low-income families. In fact, if the gentleman's amendment were adopted we would actually break contracts. We would not be able to fund contracts that we are legally obligated to do.

The bill's funding levels are not arbitrary. We have scrubbed these accounts. We have held hearings and

made recommendations on what must be funded.

Again, I must oppose it. There are no new contracts. We are not expanding the program; we are basically paying for what we already have in this account. Again, to have this reduction, we would, in fact, break our contract.

With that, I oppose the amendment and urge a ''no'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This account renews long-term housing assistance contracts and the number varies from year to year. The amount needed to renew these contracts depends on how many agreements HUD entered into years ago, not the number we renewed last year.

Reducing the funds in this account will threaten the viability of these units if the funding is not preserved.

I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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 Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FEES TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $10,000,000 is to be derived from the Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund: *Provided*, That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at zero, and fees pursuant to such section 620 shall be modified as necessary to ensure such a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation: *Provided further*, That for the dispute resolution and installation programs, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may assess and collect fees from any program participant: *Provided further*, That such collections shall be deposited into the Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein, may use such collections, as well as fees collected under section 620, for necessary expenses of such Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family loans insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed $400,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2015, obligations to make direct loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed $20,000,000: *Provided further*, That the foregoing amount in the previous proviso shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

For administrative contract expenses of the Federal Housing Administration, $130,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That to the extent guaranteed loan commitments exceed $200,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2015, an additional $1,400 for administrative contract expenses shall be available for each $1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below $1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed $30,000,000.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-3 and 1735c), shall not exceed $30,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2015, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g), 207(l), 238, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed $20,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed $500,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That $22,000,000 shall be available for necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: *Provided further*, That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, and for technical assistance, $40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 204 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements funded with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, or State or local governments and their agencies for research projects: *Provided further*, That with respect to the previous proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements must contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project: *Provided further*, That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the previous two provisos, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–282, 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) with respect to documentation of award decisions: *Provided further*, That prior to obligation of technical assistance, the Secretary shall submit a plan, for approval, to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on how it will allocate funding for this activity.

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 111, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, working with housing developments in my own district, there is an interest in making sure that the tenants are informed of their rights and responsibilities. This amendment provides for informing tenants of their rights and responsibilities.

The amendment would increase funding to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Policy Development and Research Office to support efforts to inform tenants of their rights and responsibilities.

In 2012, 23.8 percent of Houstonians were living in poverty. According to the Christian Community Service Center, 17.3 percent of Houston families live below poverty. In the city of Houston, 31.3 percent of children under the age of 18 live in poverty, and 33.6 percent of children under the age of 5 live in poverty.

The amendment will increase the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Policy Development and Research funding. This amendment will support work by HUD to inform tenants of their rights and responsibilities. Those who provide shelter to residents of publicly subsidized housing may own monthly family dwellings or a single home.

A relationship between the tenant and the property owner is very important to the long-term housing stability of those living in public or subsidized housing. Many residents of low-income communities may never have lived in a home of their own and may not have

the knowledge or experience to know the basics regarding their obligation as tenants to abide by rental agreements or the obligation of property owners to maintain safe and pest-free housing.

It is my interest to continue to press forward for more information to the many housing developments that I have in my congressional district. I think it is important to give notice to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that a better job can be done.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

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 the following:

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, $46,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary may assess and collect fees to cover the costs of the Fair Housing Training Academy, and may use such funds to provide such training: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading shall be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant or loan: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $300,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 112, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is cosponsored by my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) who has been such a tremendous leader on fair housing and equal opportunity issues and civil rights issues since way before he came to Congress, but he has kept his passion and his focus on issues of fairness and justice even now to this day. So I just want to thank him for cosponsoring this amendment.

Our amendment would increase funding for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program by 10 million, offset from Information Services. I want to thank the chairman, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. PASTOR for your assistance in helping us work through this and for your commitment to fair housing.

Fair housing initiatives are a central component of our Nation's civil rights protections under the Fair Housing Act. Unfortunately, we know that despite gains, discrimination remains.

This program funds competitive grants to provide nonprofit entities for critical education and enforcement services to prevent housing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, disability, veteran status, familial status, and other factors.

In my home district, for example, in California, the Bay Area Legal Aid and Fair Housing of Marin have utilized these funds to provide critical education programs, including workshops on fair housing for domestic violence victims and investigations of discriminatory housing practices.

In 2013, private fair housing organizations investigated more than twice as many housing complaints as government agencies. At the same time, however, many fair housing organizations have had to close or reduce their staffing capacity due to continuous cuts to this program.

This program has a history of bipartisan support. And I know that my colleagues across the aisle acknowledge its vital role in ensuring that our constituents are not the subject of unfair and discriminatory practices in an increasingly competitive and uncertain housing market.

While I am very pleased that we are able to provide this supplemental funding, I must also acknowledge that the funding levels across the bill are still far too low to truly provide the affordable housing resources that our Nation sorely needs.

I want to thank again Congressman AL GREEN from Texas, Chairman LATHAM, and our ranking member, Mr. PASTOR, for your support for this amendment and, more importantly, for this important program.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Ms. LEE for her efforts and her work in trying to restore funding.

Mr. Chairman, this does not bring it back to the FY14 funding level, but it does help. I am so grateful that Ms. LEE took the lead to get this done. She worked with the ranking member and the chair of the committee. I want to compliment and thank both of them for working with Ms. LEE to get this done.

Let me mention this about this program. The Fair Housing Initiatives Program, affectionately known as FHIP, has been of great benefit to persons who are being discriminated against, especially veterans now. We have a good many veterans who are coming back. They don't return the way they left, and they are disabled. Many times when persons are discriminating against people, they don't know that the person is a veteran because the person happens to be in a wheelchair.

This initiative allows for housing entities—NGOs—that are qualified and certified to actually do testing to ascertain whether or not this kind of invidious discrimination exists. When they do find that there is discrimination, most of the cases, about 70 percent, are resolved by way of reconciliation. There is not a lawsuit filed. There is a means by which people become educated, and they abide by the law.

This opportunity for us to continue the program, notwithstanding the fact that it is not at the Senate level, it is not at the level that the President requested, but it is at an additional $10 million, and I am grateful to Ms. LEE for what she has done.

Ms. LEE, I compliment you, and I am grateful that you took the time to work with our colleagues to show some bipartisanship in getting this done.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your bipartisanship on this effort. Mr. Ranking Member, I thank you as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

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 112, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $150,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks to raise by 50 percent the cap on funding for the Limited English Proficiency initiative under the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity section of this bill, an amount more in keeping with the historical levels on spending for this initiative.

This amendment passed by voice vote last year, and it is my hope that it will do so again this year. The Limited English Proficiency initiative within HUD is vital for ensuring that individuals who are not proficient in English are aware of their rights, are able to understand the terms of leases and other housing-related documents, and are able to receive important announcements that affect the health and safety of their households.

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Additionally, this initiative educates HUD-assisted housing providers about their responsibilities under Federal law and HUD regulations to ensure that housing programs and activities are

fully accessible to all, regardless of national origin or English proficiency.

Historically, the Limited English Proficiency initiative within HUD has been funded at $500,000. In the first year of its existence, 2008, it received $380,000. After that, from 2009 through 2011, it received $500,000. Then, with the change in leadership in this House, funding has slipped to $300,000 in recent years.

Last year, however, this House—both Democrats and Republicans—did the right thing. It voted to raise the cap for this initiative, an initiative that translates documents outlining how to become a first-time homeowner and how to avoid loan fraud and foreclosure, as well as fair housing information for disaster housing providers and survivors. I ask that we do so again here today.

I want to point out that we are not taking away from any other programs. We are simply slightly lifting the cap on this particular initiative.

We do have to realize that there are over 40 million Americans who do not speak English as their first language. This tiny program demonstrates to the American people that we have equal protection under the law, regardless of whether people are English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, or speak some other language.

Given the tiny amount of money that is involved here, this program has been extraordinarily effective. In the last year for which we have statistics, almost 30,000 people benefited for a program that cost the Federal Government only $300,000.

I ask the majority and my friends across the aisle to consider the value of this program to every community across America, and I urge them to accept this amendment, as they did last year.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

For the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, $70,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That up to $10,000,000 of that amount shall be for the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 that shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint poisoning and other housing-related diseases and hazards: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other provisions of the law that further the purposes of such Act, a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative, or the Lead Technical Studies program under this heading or under prior appropriations Acts for such purposes under this heading, shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For the development of, modifications to, and infrastructure for Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems, for the continuing operation and maintenance of both Department-wide and program-specific information systems, and for program-related maintenance activities, $97,000,000, of which $82,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, and of which $15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017 for Development, Modernization and Enhancement: *Provided*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund under this Act shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund from amounts appropriated by previously enacted appropriations Acts may be used for the purposes specified under this Fund, in addition to any other information technology purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That not more than 40 percent of the funds made available under this heading for Development, Modernization and Enhancement, including development and deployment of a Next Generation Management System and development and deployment of modernized Federal Housing Administration systems may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations and the Comptroller General of the United States a plan for expenditure that—(A) provides for all information technology investments: (i) the cost and schedule baselines with explanations for each associated variance, (ii) the status of functional and performance capabilities delivered or planned to be delivered, and (iii) mitigation strategies to address identified risks; (B) outlines activities to ensure strategic, consistent, and effective application of information technology management controls: (i) enterprise architecture, (ii) project management, (iii) investment management, and (iv) human capital management.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $124,861,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel and acquisition issues within this office.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1437 note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used during fiscal year 2015 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a nonfrivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. Sections 203 and 209 of division C of Public Law 112–55 (125 Stat. 693–694) shall apply during fiscal year 2015 as if such sections were included in this title, except that during such fiscal year such sections shall be applied by substituting ''fiscal year 2015'' for ''fiscal year 2011'' and for ''fiscal year 2012'' each place such terms appear, and shall be amended to reflect revised delineations of statistical areas established by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(3), 31 U.S.C. 1104(d), and Executive Order 10253.

SEC. 204. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be made on a competitive basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 205. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811–1).

SEC. 206. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 207. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of such Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2015 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 208. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all uncommitted, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds

in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit additional, updated budget information to these Committees upon request.

SEC. 209. The President's formal budget request for fiscal year 2016, as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development's congressional budget justifications to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall use the identical account and sub-account structure provided under this Act.

SEC. 210. A public housing agency or such other entity that administers Federal housing assistance for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California, the States of Alaska, Iowa, and Mississippi shall not be required to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of assistance provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 on the board of directors or a similar governing board of such agency or entity as required under section (2)(b) of such Act. Each public housing agency or other entity that administers Federal housing assistance under section 8 for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California and the States of Alaska, Iowa and Mississippi that chooses not to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of section 8 assistance on the board of directors or a similar governing board shall establish an advisory board of not less than six residents of public housing or recipients of section 8 assistance to provide advice and comment to the public housing agency or other administering entity on issues related to public housing and section 8. Such advisory board shall meet not less than quarterly.

SEC. 211. No funds provided under this title may be used for an audit of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 212. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) NUMBER AND BEDROOM SIZE OF UNITS.—

(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: the number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e. bedroom size) provided by the transferring project shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferring project: the Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(2) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet or exceed applicable physical standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagor of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenants residing in the transferring project and provide a certification of approval by all appropriate local governmental officials.

(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects until new units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transfer is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the receiving project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project by the Secretary, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions in such agreement are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended) of any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms ''low-income'' and ''very low-income'' shall have the meanings provided by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(2) the term ''multifamily housing project'' means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Housing Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 as amended by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act; or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term ''project-based assistance'' means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act (as such section existed immediately before October 1, 1983);

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965;

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act;

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959; and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act;

(4) the term ''receiving project or projects'' means the multifamily housing project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions are to be transferred;

(5) the term ''transferring project'' means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt and the statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects; and

(6) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) PUBLIC NOTICE AND RESEARCH REPORT.—

(1) The Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register the terms and conditions, including criteria for HUD approval, of transfers pursuant to this section no later than 30 days before the effective date of such notice.

(2) The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 213. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005; and

(7) is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any financial assistance (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 214. The funds made available for Native Alaskans under the heading ''Native American Housing Block Grants'' in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.

SEC. 215. Notwithstanding the limitation in the first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20(g)), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may, until September 30, 2015, insure

and enter into commitments to insure mortgages under such section 255.

SEC. 216. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2015, in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 or other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that such a multifamily property owned or held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (''MAHRAA'') and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or receivership. After disposition of any multifamily property described under this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under section 524 of MAHRAA.

SEC. 217. The commitment authority funded by fees as provided under the heading ''Community Development Loan Guarantees Program Account'' may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes, or other obligations issued by any State on behalf of non-entitlement communities in the State in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: *Provided*, That any State receiving such a guarantee or commitment shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas that received the commitment.

SEC. 218. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the operating fund rule: *Provided*, That an agency seeking a discontinuance of a reduction of subsidy under the operating fund formula shall not be exempt from asset management requirements.

SEC. 219. With respect to the use of amounts provided in this Act and in future Acts for the operation, capital improvement and management of public housing as authorized by sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d) and (e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1), (2)): *Provided*, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2).

SEC. 220. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder unless the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in funds control procedures and directives. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD sub-office under the accounts ''Executive Offices'' and ''Administrative Support Offices,'' as well as each account receiving appropriations for ''Program Office Salaries and Expenses'' within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 221. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall report annually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of all section 8 project-based housing, including the number of all project-based units by region as well as an analysis of all federally subsidized housing being refinanced under the Mark-to-Market program. The Secretary shall in the report identify all existing units maintained by region as section 8 project-based units and all project-based units that have opted out of section 8 or have otherwise been eliminated as section 8 project-based units. The Secretary shall identify in detail and by project the most likely reasons for any units which opted out or otherwise were lost as section 8 project-based units. Such analysis shall include a review of the most likely impact of the loss of any subsidized units in that housing marketplace.

SEC. 222. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall, for fiscal year 2015, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding availability (NOFA) for any program or discretionary fund administered by the Secretary that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2015, the Secretary may make the NOFA available only on the Internet at the appropriate Government Web site or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 223. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation must be paid from individual program office personnel benefits and compensation funding. The annual budget submission for program office personnel benefit and compensation funding must include program-related litigation costs for attorney fees as a separate line item request.

SEC. 224. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to transfer up to 5 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, of the funds appropriated for any office funded under the heading ''Administrative Support Offices'' to any other office funded under such heading: *Provided*, That no appropriation for any office funded under the heading ''Administrative Support Offices'' shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 5 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, of the funds appropriated for any account funded under the general heading ''Program Office Salaries and Expenses'' to any other account funded under such heading: *Provided* further, That no appropriation for any account funded under the general heading ''Program Office Salaries and Expenses'' shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may transfer funds made available for salaries and expenses between any office funded under the heading ''Administrative Support Offices'' and any account funded under the general heading ''Program Office Salaries and Expenses'', but only with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 225. The Disaster Housing Assistance Programs, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall be considered a ''program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development'' under section 904 of the McKinney Act for the purpose of income verifications and matching.

SEC. 226. (a) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall take the required actions under subsection (b) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance:

(1) receives a Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) score of 30 or less; or

(2) receives a REAC score between 31 and 59 and:

(A) fails to certify in writing to HUD within 60 days that all deficiencies have been corrected; or

(B) receives consecutive scores of less than 60 on REAC inspections.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and noninsured projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), but do not apply to such units assisted under section 8(o)(13) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

(b) The Secretary shall take the following required actions as authorized under subsection (a)—

(1) The Secretary shall notify the owner and provide an opportunity for response within 30 days. If the violations remain, the Secretary shall develop a Compliance, Disposition and Enforcement Plan within 60 days, with a specified timetable for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary shall provide notice of the Plan to the owner, tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator.

(2) At the end of the term of the Compliance, Disposition and Enforcement Plan, if the owner fails to fully comply with such plan, the Secretary may require immediate replacement of project management with a management agent approved by the Secretary, and shall take one or more of the following actions, and provide additional notice of those actions to the owner and the parties specified above:

(A) impose civil money penalties;

(B) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected;

(C) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, which will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract as long as such renewal is offered; or

(D) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies.

(c) The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to

assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other remedies set forth above. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (''MAHRAA'') and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall report semi-annually on all properties covered by this section that are assessed through the Real Estate Assessment Center and have physical inspection scores of less than 30 or have consecutive physical inspection scores of less than 60. The report shall include:

(1) The enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identify properties that have such conditions multiple times; and

(2) Actions that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties.

SEC. 227. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance program) and section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, for the chief executive officer of which, or any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 228. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 229. None of the funds in this Act provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State, locality, housing authority, tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices.

SEC. 230. Section 579 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act (MAHRAA) of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note) is amended by striking ''October 1, 2015'' each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof ''October 1, 2016''.

SEC. 231. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require or enforce the Physical Needs Assessment (PNA).

SEC. 232. None of the funds made available by this Act nor any receipts or amounts collected under any Federal Housing Administration program may be used to implement the Homeowners Armed with Knowledge (HAWK) program.

SEC. 233. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Administration, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure, securitize, or establish a Federal guarantee of any mortgage or mortgage backed security that refinances or otherwise replaces a mortgage that has been subject to eminent domain condemnation or seizure, by a state, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a state.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2015''.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HIMES

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 140, after line 9, insert the following new section:

SEC. 234. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF BUDGET-NEUTRAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall establish a demonstration program under which, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, and ending on September 30, 2017, the Secretary may enter into budget-neutral, performance-based agreements that result in a reduction in energy or water costs with such entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under which the entities shall carry out projects for energy or water conservation improvements at not more than 20,000 residential units in multifamily buildings participating in—

(1) the project-based rental assistance program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), other than assistance provided under section 8(o) of that Act;

(2) the supportive housing for the elderly program under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); or

(3) the supportive housing for persons with disabilities program under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PAYMENTS CONTINGENT ON SAVINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to an entity a payment under an agreement under this section only during applicable years for which an energy or water cost savings is achieved with respect to the applicable multifamily portfolio of properties, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(B) PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each agreement under this section shall include a pay-for-success provision—

(I) that will serve as a payment threshold for the term of the agreement; and

(II) pursuant to which the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall share a percentage of the savings at a level determined by the Secretary that is sufficient to cover the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(ii) LIMITATIONS.—A payment made by the Secretary under an agreement under this section shall—

(I) be contingent on documented utility savings; and

(II) not exceed the utility savings achieved by the date of the payment, and not previously paid, as a result of the improvements made under the agreement.

(C) THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION.—Savings payments made by the Secretary under this section shall be based on a measurement and verification protocol that includes at least—

(i) establishment of a weather-normalized and occupancy-normalized utility consumption baseline established pre-retrofit;

(ii) annual third-party confirmation of actual utility consumption and cost for owner-paid utilities;

(iii) annual third-party validation of the tenant utility allowances in effect during the applicable year and vacancy rates for each unit type; and

(iv) annual third-party determination of savings to the Secretary.

(2) TERM.—The term of an agreement under this section shall be not longer than 12 years.

(3) ENTITY ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish a competitive process for entering into agreements under this section; and

(B) enter into such agreements only with entities that demonstrate significant experience relating to—

(i) financing and operating properties receiving assistance under a program described in subsection (a);

(ii) oversight of energy and water conservation programs, including oversight of contractors; and

(iii) raising capital for energy and water conservation improvements from charitable organizations or private investors.

(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—Each agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the inclusion of properties with the greatest feasible regional and State variance.

(c) PLAN AND REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed plan for the implementation of this section.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct an evaluation of the program under this section; and

(B) submit to Congress a report describing each evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A).

(d) FUNDING.—For each fiscal year during which an agreement under this section is in effect, the Secretary may use to carry out this section any funds appropriated to the Secretary for the renewal of contracts under a program described in subsection (a).

Mr. HIMES (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking my colleagues, Mr. ROSS of Florida and Mr. DELANEY of Maryland, for cosponsoring this amendment.

I would like to briefly outline the amendment by saying that this is an amendment that is a bipartisan proposal that has been included in the Senate T-HUD appropriations and the bipartisan Shaheen-Portman energy bill.

It was also included in the President's budget, and more than 24 separate groups support this amendment. It

presents no risk to the Federal Government, is budget neutral, and actually has the potential to reduce utility costs for HUD up to $7 billion annually.

In brief, HUD-assisted properties are generally older stock, with inefficient energy and water usage. There are lot of barriers to improving that situation and, therefore, realizing those savings.

Under the pilot program proposed by this amendment, an intermediary will contract with HUD or with property owners to produce energy and water savings in exchange for a share of those ongoing savings.

Relying on this contract, the intermediary will raise the capital to pay for energy and water conservation for the affected property. This private capital would be used to pay energy efficiency experts, such as NAESCO, to perform energy and water efficiency upgrades in HUD-assisted housing, such as housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

Multifamily building owners would not take on any risk and would not need to spend any capital. The bill leverages the private sector to more effectively direct government resources and to ensure the best outcomes for the taxpayer.

Mr. Chairman, we may not agree on some things in the underlying bill, but smart, innovative approaches to financing energy savings improvements are simply common sense.

I hope the chairman and the ranking member will work with me and my fellow bipartisan cosponsors to ensure that this measure is ultimately enacted into law.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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 to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Hearing none, the Chair finds that this amendment includes language imparting direction. 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:

TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES

ACCESS BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, $7,548,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation funds received for publications and training expenses.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

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, $45,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, to be derived from assessments collected from the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Federal Home Loan Banks under section 1106 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission as authorized by section 201(d) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 307), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b); and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902, $25,499,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $24,499,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern the obtaining of such services within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment within Amtrak: *Provided further*, That concurrent with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2016, the Inspector General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a budget request for fiscal year 2016 in similar format and substance to those submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 141, line 23, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would reduce Amtrak's Office of the Inspector General by $1 million and increase the spending reduction account by that same amount.

□ 2115

This reduction would eliminate a proposed increase to that account, keeping the funding level just like it is today for the coming year.

I spoke about Amtrak's failings at length during the consideration of the first title of this bill.

Amtrak consistently runs at a massive operating deficit. The long-distance routes are continually in the red, and the food and beverage service only nets a 65 percent return on what it spends despite paying its staff six-figure salaries, which is way above what the average American can expect to make in salary.

My colleagues who support Amtrak—and maybe even some who don't—will likely say that, if any part of this embattled entity deserves more funding, it is the inspector general. And, yes, the Office of the Inspector General has rooted out some fraud, and it has discovered some significant overpayments, but, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that health benefits fraud and overpayments are things that are just the tip of a very large and very obvious iceberg.

It is not some great mystery why Amtrak is hemorrhaging money. The long-distance routes lose incredible amounts of money, and taxpayers are being bilked for this tremendous amount of loss. It is breathtaking, really, that we continue to turn a blind eye to more than a half a billion dollars lost year after year just to sustain these routes which carry fewer than 5 million passengers annually. That number may sound large, but meanwhile, in 2012, there were more than 815 million ticketed airline passengers in the United States.

How about the food and beverage service on Amtrak trains?

Over the last 5 years, this service has resulted in nearly $400 million in losses. Yes, the Office of the Inspector General does decent work, and I commend the Office for exposing and admitting Amtrak's history of cooking its books to make the losses sustained by these long-distance routes and the food and beverage service look slightly less awful than they actually are; but in this time of fiscal emergency, I think it would be prudent to tell the Amtrak OIG to work on the obvious issues first. Take care of the big problems before hiring new staff to look for new issues that are dwarfed by what we already know.

I urge the support of my amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I am in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

As you know, one of the very important functions of this committee is

oversight—ensuring agencies under our purview are effectively and efficiently managed.

The bill provides the Amtrak OIG with $25 million for oversight studies and investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse at Amtrak. It is through these investigations that the Amtrak OIG has helped improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Amtrak's programs and operations.

For example, Amtrak OIG developed a program that has identified improper or overpayments to the tune of $91.3 million. Amtrak has collected some of this back, which has saved taxpayer money. The impact of sequestration and unanticipated rail employee benefit cost increases wreaked havoc on Amtrak OIG and forced them to curtail or to suspend work on important initiatives and investigations. Amtrak needs more oversight, not less.

I appreciate the gentleman for pointing out all of the problems at Amtrak, but the only people there to fix it are in the OIG office, so I think to reduce funding for that would not be in the best interest. The bill's funding levels are not arbitrary. We have scrubbed these accounts. We have held hearings and have made recommendations on what should be funded and where increases or reductions need to be.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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 Georgia will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Transportation Safety Board, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for a GS–15; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902), $103,000,000, of which not to exceed $2,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses. The amounts made available to the National Transportation Safety Board in this Act include amounts necessary to make lease payments on an obligation incurred in fiscal year 2001 for a capital lease.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101–8107), $132,000,000, of which $5,000,000 shall be for a multi-family rental housing program: *Provided*, That in addition, $50,000,000 shall be made available until expended to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for mortgage foreclosure mitigation activities, under the following terms and conditions:

(1) The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (''NRC'') shall make grants to counseling intermediaries approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (with match to be determined by the NRC based on affordability and the economic conditions of an area; a match also may be waived by the NRC based on the aforementioned conditions) to provide mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance primarily to States and areas with high rates of defaults and foreclosures to help eliminate the default and foreclosure of mortgages of owner-occupied single-family homes that are at risk of such foreclosure. Other than areas with high rates of defaults and foreclosures, grants may also be provided to approved counseling intermediaries based on a geographic analysis of the Nation by the NRC which determines where there is a prevalence of mortgages that are risky and likely to fail, including any trends for mortgages that are likely to default and face foreclosure. A State Housing Finance Agency may also be eligible where the State Housing Finance Agency meets all the requirements under this paragraph. A HUD-approved counseling intermediary shall meet certain mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance counseling requirements, as determined by the NRC, and shall be approved by HUD or the NRC as meeting these requirements.

(2) Mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance shall only be made available to homeowners of owner-occupied homes with mortgages in default or in danger of default. These mortgages shall likely be subject to a foreclosure action and homeowners will be provided such assistance that shall consist of activities that are likely to prevent foreclosures and result in the long-term affordability of the mortgage retained pursuant to such activity or another positive outcome for the homeowner. No funds made available under this paragraph may be provided directly to lenders or homeowners to discharge outstanding mortgage balances or for any other direct debt reduction payments.

(3) The use of mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance by approved counseling intermediaries and State Housing Finance Agencies shall involve a reasonable analysis of the borrower's financial situation, an evaluation of the current value of the property that is subject to the mortgage, counseling regarding the assumption of the mortgage by another non-Federal party, counseling regarding the possible purchase of the mortgage by a non-Federal third party, counseling and advice of all likely restructuring and refinancing strategies or the approval of a work-out strategy by all interested parties.

(4) NRC may provide up to 15 percent of the total funds under this paragraph to its own charter members with expertise in foreclosure prevention counseling, subject to a certification by the NRC that the procedures for selection do not consist of any procedures or activities that could be construed as an unacceptable conflict of interest or have the appearance of impropriety.

(5) HUD-approved counseling entities and State Housing Finance Agencies receiving funds under this paragraph shall have demonstrated experience in successfully working with financial institutions as well as borrowers facing default, delinquency and foreclosure as well as documented counseling capacity, outreach capacity, past successful performance and positive outcomes with documented counseling plans (including post mortgage foreclosure mitigation counseling), loan workout agreements and loan modification agreements. NRC may use other criteria to demonstrate capacity in underserved areas.

(6) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to $2,500,000 may be made available to build the mortgage foreclosure and default mitigation counseling capacity of counseling intermediaries through NRC training courses with HUD-approved counseling intermediaries and their partners, except that private financial institutions that participate in NRC training shall pay market rates for such training.

(7) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to 5 percent may be used for associated administrative expenses for the NRC to carry out activities provided under this section.

(8) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to $4,000,000 may be used for wind-down and closeout of the mortgage foreclosure mitigation activities program.

(9) Mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance grants may include a budget for outreach and advertising, and training, as determined by the NRC.

(10) The NRC shall continue to report biannually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations as well as the Senate Banking Committee and House Financial Services Committee on its efforts to mitigate mortgage default.

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the functions pursuant to title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, $3,500,000.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 403. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or ''new age'' belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission Notice N–915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants' personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

(1) creates a new program;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, administration, or department different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the table accompanying the explanatory statement accompanying this Act, whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the report shall include:

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriation; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated or limited for salaries and expenses for an agency shall be reduced by $100,000 per day for each day after the required date that the report has not been submitted to the Congress.

SEC. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2015 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2015 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2016, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 407. No funds in this Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities: *Provided further*, That any use of funds for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including energy-related, communication-related, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designated for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of an immediate threat to public health and safety or brownsfield as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownsfield Revitalization Act (Public Law 107–118) shall be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

SEC. 408. All Federal agencies and departments that are funded under this Act shall issue a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on all sole-source contracts by no later than July 30, 2015. Such report shall include the contractor, the amount of the contract and the rationale for using a sole-source contract.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 410. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held by an employee who has left to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and has within 90 days after his or her release from such service or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

SEC. 411. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c, popularly known as the ''Buy American Act'').

SEC. 412. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c).

SEC. 413. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class airline accommodations in contravention of sections 301–10.122 and 301–10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 414. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 415. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation with any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 416. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is $0.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. 4____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require the relocation, or to carry out any required relocation, of any asset management positions of the Office of Multifamily Housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment that will continue to ensure that the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Multifamily staff remains locally based, connected to communities and on the ground to serve as the eyes and ears of lawmakers.

Specifically, this amendment would prohibit HUD from using any of the funds appropriated by this bill for the Multifamily Housing transformation initiative, which is designed to relocate asset management staff and to restructure HUD's Multifamily field offices nationwide.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would effectively stop HUD from closing any of the offices where asset management staff are currently located.

When HUD announced its plans for a major restructuring of Multifamily field offices nationwide, I was deeply concerned. Under the plan, HUD will go from 50 Multifamily offices down to 12, with only five of them being designated as ''regional centers.'' The shortcomings of this plan are not more obvious than in my home district, where a decision was made to relocate the Los Angeles field office—one of the busiest hubs in the country. If undeterred, this plan would close the Los Angeles office, uproot its entire staff, and relocate its operations to another regional

center, which would now be responsible for more than double its current workload and would be facing the daunting task of serving 73 million people in 14 States across 1.8 million square miles.

HUD promises that this plan will achieve significant savings without impacting program delivery. However, after careful review, I remain skeptical that HUD will be able to deliver on this promise. I join advocates, industry stakeholders and affected employees in expressing my continued, serious concern over the implications of this reorganization, and my concerns are numerous.

First, HUD's plan does not seem to acknowledge the critical importance and value of having staff who are living and working in the communities they are serving. There are significant differences among local housing markets, and an awareness of each region's unique characteristics is essential to the work of the Multifamily Housing office.

Second, reorganization would adversely affect the delivery of services by reducing the staff's ability to effectively respond to unique local concerns and to remain connected to community leaders. Staff would have less interaction with owners and managers, and responsive walk-in assistance would be eliminated for thousands of people who rely on Multifamily offices.

California was one of the hardest hit States by the financial collapse, and too many families suffered from the subsequent wave of foreclosures. With our housing market still struggling to recover, we cannot afford to undercut what little progress we have made with a radical overhaul of HUD's infrastructure.

I, for one, am still struggling to understand how this plan will save money while also preserving the quality of services delivered, and I have yet to receive satisfactory answers from HUD regarding my concerns. That is why I have been—and I remain—a vocal opponent of HUD's Multifamily transformation in its entirety. Today, I am urging HUD to more carefully consider the details and full implications of its plan.

Although this amendment only addresses some of my concerns and would not stop the transformation altogether, it would codify the agreement between HUD and appropriators to keep asset management staff on site and to leave all existing Multifamily offices open. Moreover, it reflects language that just passed the Senate last week. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''aye'' on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of Transportation to authorize a person—

(1) to operate an unmanned aircraft system in the national airspace system for the purpose, in whole or in part, of using the unmanned aircraft system as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against a person or property; or

(2) to manufacture, sell, or distribute an unmanned aircraft system, or a component thereof, for use in the national airspace system as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against a person or property.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2130

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is similar to one that I brought to the floor of the House 2 years ago. During that 2 years, there has been a lot of discussion about the use of unmanned aircraft, commonly referred to as drones, in the U.S. national airspace.

The constitutional protections that are important to so many of us can be infringed upon without constant vigilance to prevent abuse of such drones. Until recently, it was believed that the use of drones in the United States airspace was limited to surveillance. That is no longer the case.

To date, at least 17 police departments and sheriffs' offices across the country have filed certificates of authorization with the FAA to be able to use a drone. Police chiefs and sheriffs in districts around the country have applied to the FAA for a certificate of authorization to use a drone in the national airspace.

Some departments might be using the drones for surveillance. However, others have announced their intention to take the drones they are currently using and attach a weapons platform to patrol their jurisdictions.

Further, over the past few years, the Obama administration's policy regarding drones has been cryptic. For instance, it is still not clear whether the President believes that he has the authority to kill an American citizen on American soil. This amendment would put an end to that ambiguity.

This amendment does not affect the use of armed drones in a war zone. Armed drones have been used with precision and success to seek out the enemy hiding in places where ground troops would have difficulty going.

But placing an unmanned drone over the skies of the United States is not only ill-advised, it flies in the face of the sincerely-held constitutional protections that we all hold dear.

This amendment would prevent the Secretary of Transportation and the head of the FAA from approving any application to use an unmanned aircraft in the national airspace for the purpose of arming or weaponizing that aircraft.

It does not affect surveillance. It does not affect weaponized drones being used outside the United States airspace in a war zone.

In my opinion, this is a road that we should not travel. It is a classic example of the oft-used quote by Benjamin Franklin: ''Those who would give up liberty to purchase safety may deserve neither liberty nor safety.''

It is an important provision, and I encourage the chairman of the subcommittee to consider it to allow it to come to a vote.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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 to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. BURGESS. With all affection and reverence for the chairman of the subcommittee, this issue has remained unresolved for the last 2 years. It was unresolved in the FAA reauthorization that passed the House 2 years ago. It has been unresolved in rulemaking by the agency.

This is an opportunity, through the limitation amendment in the appropriations bill, to prevent the type of activity that I described in the offering memorandum. I think it is appropriate. I think the time is now for us to take this action for the protection of our citizens.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

As the Chair ruled on June 27, 2012, the amendment violates clause 2 of rule XXI. The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chairman, this bill appropriates $40 million less to the Community Development Block Grant program in fiscal year 2015 than it did last year.

I would have offered an amendment to maintain CDBG funding at last year's levels, but we know there is insufficient funding throughout this bill due to the budget caps.

The CDBG program provides direct grants to 1,209 State and local governments. Since the start of the program in 1974, CDBG has invested over $135 billion in local economies, creating jobs, supporting local businesses, improving infrastructure, providing housing—including housing repairs and home ownership assistance—and services to low-income veterans, seniors, children, special-needs populations and working families.

The CDBG program grows local economies and improves the quality of lives for low and moderate-income citizens.

Over the past 10 years, CDBG-related funding is estimated to have sustained 400,000 jobs in local economies across the country. In 2012 alone, nearly 21,800 permanent jobs were created or retained using CDBG funds, and more than 32.5 million people benefited from CDBG-funded public facilities.

The total amount appropriated to CDBG has declined almost every year since 2000. When measured in inflation-adjusted constant dollars, total program funding declined by 46.4 percent since fiscal year 2000.

The CDBG program is essential for the functioning of more than 1,200 cities and counties of all shapes and sizes across the country, and there continues to be an increased need for investment in job creation, essential services for vulnerable populations, and economic and infrastructure development.

It is unfortunate that, due to an insufficient allocation of funds for projects throughout this bill, we must make cuts to vital programs like CDBG. We need to stop these cuts to our communities.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to speak in favor of the amendment that was proposed by the ranking member, Ms. WATERS, in support of the Multifamily Housing Office, which contributes to the development and preservation of healthy neighborhoods and communities. A core part of its mission is to maintain and expand home ownership, rental housing, and health care opportunities.

In an effort to achieve cost savings, HUD plans to consolidate 50 multifamily field offices organized into 17 hubs into just 12 locations organized into five regions. This would result in a severe loss of HUD's local presence in communities throughout the United States.

This means that for constituents living in Las Vegas, the closest hub location would be over 500 miles away, and that hub would simultaneously be responsible for 73 million people in 14 States. Hundreds of HUD employees would be forced to relocate, accept a buyout, or take early retirement. This drastic consolidation of HUD locations would compromise the quality of services that HUD's multifamily office provides.

It is, therefore, this reason that would create a problem at a project site in my district. There would be no local HUD employees to monitor and address the situation directly, or in a timely manner. Only if the situation rises to the level of an emergency would a HUD employee be able to send someone to investigate the issue, which would entail costly travel expenses on the taxpayers' dime.

It is also difficult to believe that, under these circumstances, HUD would somehow still be able to deliver the same quality of services that it currently delivers today.

HUD's plan to completely overhaul the multifamily office is both ill-conceived and poorly timed, and that is why I support the ranking member's amendment. I am pleased that this body has adopted it, to ensure HUD's multifamily staff remains locally-based and connected to communities who are on the ground.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. HARTZLER

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enforce section 319 of title 23, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Chairman, this is a simple, straightforward amendment to ensure highway dollars are spent wisely and are used for highways. Specifically, it prohibits our limited highway money from being used for highway beautification.

We have over 65,000 bridges that are considered structurally deficient. We must ensure that our Federal highway dollars are spent improving our infrastructure.

From 1992 to 2001, over $1.2 billion was spent on landscaping and scenic beautification, and these funds could have been put towards ensuring our roadways and bridges are safe.

It does not make sense for the hard-working families in Missouri and all across this country to send in their money on April 15, every year, and to, perhaps, forego buying their child a new coat or shoes or making a house payment so that they can pay their taxes, just so that their tax dollars can go to planting flowers alongside the road.

Now, I am for a beautiful highways, like everybody else, but I think a private solution is better. Why don't we, like we have adopt the highway sections for picking up trash and making our roads pretty, why don't we have adopt a corner for landscaping projects?

Why don't we have local garden clubs adopt an intersection, or a Girl Scout troop or a Boy Scout troop?

Why don't we leave that up to local community leaders and individuals to plant those flowers?

I don't believe we should be using our hard-earned tax dollars to be doing this highway beautification, especially in a time when our roads are falling apart and our bridges are deficient.

There are potholes in roads that are endangering our families, endangering our children, and yet we are spending these hard-earned tax dollars to plant flowers and bushes along the road. We can't afford luxuries like this anymore.

It is time to spend our highway dollars on our highways, make sure our roads are safe, make sure our bridges are safe, make sure that those hard-earned tax dollars are used wisely.

So that is why I am offering this simple amendment, and I would urge my colleagues to support my effort to make sure our highway dollars are spent where they need to be spent and to make sure our money is spent wisely. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the amendment. I very much understand where the gentlewoman is coming from with the tremendous needs that we have today in infrastructure, to have some of this money being diverted to other uses. I understand entirely.

This really is an authorizing issue if there ever was one. We appropriate money in this bill. We don't authorize or set up the programs themselves. That should be addressed in a reauthorization of the MAP–21 bill.

The funds here, oftentimes, go to erosion control. They preserve wetlands and meet some environmental regulations that the States have to comply with or the entities, government entities have to comply with.

But the real big problem here is the fact that States may have contracts already out there that they are obligated to pay and, basically, what we are saying is we are not going to reimburse you, so the Federal Government, even though the States have the contracts in place, we are not going to do our part and help pay the bill, and that really is where the problem is.

□ 2145

We have an obligation, but we don't have the money. Again, that is why this goes back to an authorizing issue that needs to be looked at. I totally agree with the gentlewoman, and I reluctantly oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I am in agreement with Chairman LATHAM that this is an authorizing issue, and it would cause great damage, especially to those contracts that are

already in place, and for that reason, I am in opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. HARTZLER. 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 Missouri will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. NORTON

Ms. NORTON. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 in contravention of the 5th or 14th Amendment to the Constitution or title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, in July, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

My amendment enforces section 2000(d) of the act. It would require that no funds would be available or used to stop, investigate, detain, or arrest people on highways based on their physical appearance in violation of the Fifth and 14th Amendments and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Supreme Court, in Whren v. U.S., has found that profiling based on physical appearance on highways violates equal protection of the laws. Title VI of the 1964 act enforces the 14th Amendment and applies to funding for all Federal agencies and departments. My amendment carries out this mandate in transportation funding as well.

Federal guidance regarding the use of race by Federal law enforcement agencies finds that racial profiling is not merely wrong, but is also ineffective. Not only Blacks and Hispanics are affected, but many others in our country as well, given the increasing diversity of American society.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that Whites are stopped at a rate of 3.6 percent, but Blacks at 9.5 percent and Hispanics at 8.8 percent, more than twice the rate of Whites.

The figures are roughly the same, regardless of region or State. In Minnesota, for example, a statewide study of racial profiling found that African Americans, Hispanics, and Native American drivers were stopped and searched far more often than Whites, but contraband was found more frequently in cars where White drivers had been stopped.

In Texas, where disproportionate stops and searches of African Americans and Hispanics were found to have taken place, it was also found that Whites more often were carrying contraband.

Mr. Chairman, in 2005, I sponsored a transportation amendment that allowed a Federal grant to States who wanted to stop racial profiling. Nearly half of the States participated in this program.

Unfortunately, it was not renewed in 2009. My amendment seeks to prevent citizens from being stopped, investigated, arrested, or detained based on their physical appearance.

Considering our country's history and increasing diversity, we are late in barring profiling at the national level. At the very least, Federal taxpayers should not be compelled to subsidize the unconstitutional practice of profiling by law enforcement officials in the States.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. NORTON. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We agree to the gentlewoman's amendment.

Ms. NORTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAINES

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 develop, issue, or implement regulations that increase levels of minimum financial responsibility for transporting passengers or property as in effect on January 1, 2014, under regulations issued pursuant to sections 31138 and 31139 of title 49, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Montana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, this April, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced that it would be moving forward with a rulemaking that would increase the amount of required liability coverage for truck and bus companies.

This comes despite findings by the Department of Transportation that less than 0.2 percent of truck-involved accidents have property and injury damages that exceed the current minimum liability coverage requirements, which is $750,000.

Current proposals regarding the insurance increase call for minimum levels to go up by more than 500 percent, and this would lead to a significant reduction in insurance availability for motor carriers, especially small businesses. The bottom line is this: the trial lawyers win, the small businesses lose.

It is estimated that premiums could increase by more than four times the current levels, up to $20,000 per truck and even more per bus. Further, more than 40 percent of currently operating motor carriers could go out of business due to these new requirements.

There is no evidence supporting higher insurance requirements or that coverage levels result in the improved safety performance of a motor carrier. DOT's own report argued that increasing minimum insurance levels is not the best way to meet the needs of catastrophic accident victims.

My amendment would prohibit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from moving forward with a rulemaking action that would increase the minimum financial liability insurance requirements for truck and bus companies during the 2015 fiscal year.

Please join me in support of this effort to keep safe small business truck and bus companies on the road.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

I appreciate all of the courtesies from my good friend from Montana. I understand the motivations behind this amendment, but I must speak against it because this amendment itself is a threat to the safety of Americans on the roadway.

It is counter to the goal that we all share, of protecting and preserving Social Security and Medicare, two vital safety net programs in this country; and, above all, it destroys accountability in the safety rules in the trucking industry.

Mr. Chairman, in 1980, Congress mandated that commercial motor carriers carry a minimum of $750,000 in liability coverage. This number has not been adjusted in more than 33 years. In present dollars, simply adjusting for inflation using a health care cost CPI, consumer price index, would require changing the $750,000 to $4.4 million.

In fact, I have introduced, myself, H.R. 2730, the SAFE HAUL Act to do just that, simply to adjust for inflation over the 34 years that that $750,000 limit was in place.

This past weekend, Mr. Chairman, Mr. James McNair, a talented comedian, died in New Jersey because of a tractor-trailer collision. Apparently, the tractor-trailer driver was awake for 24 hours, in violation of a myriad of hours of service requirements in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations. Tracy Morgan, his associate, remains in critical condition.

To suggest that $750,000, with today's health care costs, is adequate to cover this kind of tragedy is ridiculous.

In fact, the truth is that, since 1980, more than 100,000 people have died in tractor-trailer-related collisions. We are not talking about cases where

there was a genuine dispute about who was at fault for the accident.

We are talking about cases where it was clear that the tractor-trailer was at fault for the accident and people died, more than 100,000 over the past 34 years.

Mr. Chairman, in contradistinction to the comments of my good friend from Montana, a recent study conducted by the Trucking Alliance found that 42 percent of the value of settlements paid by trucking companies between 2005 and 2011 exceeded the minimum insurance requirement of $750,000.

When you don't adjust for inflation, you are not doing the simple math that is required, and to suggest that adjustment for inflation is wrong somehow seems quite silly.

So, Mr. Chairman, what we need to realize is that, when a truck is underinsured, when a truck doesn't have enough insurance to cover the harm that it causes, who pays the difference? What happens when a truck doesn't have enough insurance to cover the harm that it causes in medical bills, in lost wages?

Well, what happens is the U.S. taxpayer picks up the difference, the U.S. taxpayer, paying into the Social Security system, paying into the Medicare system, the U.S. taxpayer picks up the difference; and what ends up happening is we get a form of corporate welfare, where trucking companies at fault for accidents that kill, maim, and disable people, all of a sudden, don't have to pick up the difference. It is the American taxpayer that picks up the difference.

In a day and age when we should be doing everything and anything that we can to shore up Social Security and Medicare, this is not a policy decision that we want to be engaging in, protecting trucking companies at fault for death-dealing accidents from accountability for their actions.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. I yield to the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chair, just a reminder that the DOT's own study says that less than 0.2 percent of truck-involved accidents have property and injury damages that exceed the current requirements.

The bottom line is this: let the small business owner decide what they want to insure above the already required $750,000. This is one more regulation that is going to benefit the trial lawyers at the expense of small businesses.

Remember, again, what the DOT said. Raising the minimum insurance levels is not the best way to meet the needs of catastrophic accident victims.

Mr. LATHAM. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

MAP–21 required the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to review whether the minimum insurance requirements for trucks and buses were sufficient.

This would freeze insurance claims at the current level. DOT is conducting a rulemaking to further evaluate the appropriate level of the financial responsibility. We ought to let the process go forward.

I oppose the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. 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 Montana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or exemption application under section 40109 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.–E.U.–Iceland–Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.–E.U.–Iceland–Norway Air Transport Agreement.

Mr. DEFAZIO (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

Mr. LATHAM. I object.

The Acting CHAIR. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2200

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, these limitation amendments often don't go to matters of national security.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. The reason I objected is we weren't sure as to what the amendment was, and we would accept the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. We won't take much time if the gentleman just would allow me 1 or 2 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. If the gentleman doesn't take much time, we will accept the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I agree. And Mr. WESTMORELAND will also be brief. This is extraordinarily important, and I thank the Chair for his indulgence and his support.

We, in the Open Skies Agreement with the EU, anticipated that some countries might try and go forum shopping, that is—like the cruise line industry—look for a nation that has lesser laws regulating labor, safety, and then also allow outsourcing. This would be a model for Norwegian—for this airline, which does not fly to the United States, to incorporate in Ireland. They would then hire crews from Malaysia to fly planes based in Singapore and hope to serve the United States with these crews.

This is the cruise line model. It is a recipe for disaster. You shop around the world to find the least regulated, least trained, and cheapest labor you can—as has happened with the cruise line industry—and in this case, in aviation, it will both threaten consumers and national security given the Civil Reserve Air Fleet requirements of aviation.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, a subsidiary of the Norway-based Norwegian Air Shuttle, NAS, Norwegian Air International, is seeking to operate as an Irish airline and plans to conduct overseas flights from Europe to the U.S. NAI has been granted an Irish Air Operator's Certificate, but still has an application for a foreign air carrier permit pending with the U.S. DOT.

It appears that the NAI plans for its pilots to work under individual employment contracts that are governed by Singapore law that contains wages and working conditions substantially inferior to those of NAS's Norway-based pilots. These contracts will be with a Singapore employment company that will rent the pilots to NAI. Although it seeks to become an Irish airline, it appears that NAI will not be operating air transportation services from Ireland. This raises a question about how regulatory oversight of NAI's operations will be conducted.

The United States has the highest, most competitive airline industry in the world, the safest regulations, and so, I hope that we will adopt this DeFazio-Westmoreland amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to accept the amendment, but I just want to

make it clear that this really states the obvious, that basically we are saying that you can't approve something that contravenes U.S. law or article 17 of the Air Transport Agreement. If so, it is obviously stating what is already law and really is nothing new.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding. It is not so obvious with this administration. They are desperate for the TPP, they are desperate for the trans-America free trade agreement, and we are very worried that they would think that disapproving this application from Ireland representing Norway, who intends to operate a rent-an-airline, rent-a-crew from Singapore, would somehow derail their talks. So I don't think it is obvious. This is sending a message to the White House that we are not going to let this happen.

With that, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''Federal Transit Administration—Transit Formula Grants'' may be used in contravention of section 5309 of title 49, United States Code.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, let me, first of all, thank Mr. LATHAM and Mr. PASTOR for their leadership on this important legislation and overall indicate that my amendment is important, but it restates a current law. In particular, what I think is important is that it emphasizes the nature of projects that create economic development, particularly in the transportation area.

It cites 5309, title 49, the Secretary may make grants under this section to State and local government authorities to assist in financing, goes on to say new fixed guideway capital projects, small start projects, including acquisition of real property. It goes on to talk about car capacity improvements, including double tracking, and it specifically goes into the line of work that deals with projects on approved transportation plans.

That is key. The language here says section grants to State and local governments, which means that when local governments propose their projects, the Secretary has the authority to go forward on them.

Let me, for a moment, give some quotes from organizations that have supported light rail and the economic development of transportation.

One statement says that we simply cannot afford to have limitations on Federal funding or turn away money that can be utilized to make our region a better place to live, work, and build businesses. It is well documented that economic development of transportation projects guides the Nation. Whether or not it is on the seaways, whether or not it is dams, whether it is highways, whether or not it is tollways, whether or not it involves other modes of transportation, they are economic engines. And it is important for the local community to be the drivers of that.

One statement says that the region will not be able to maintain its economic vitality without the ability to create and preserve infrastructure that supports the movement of people and goods throughout our country.

So this amendment clearly speaks to the global aspect of the Secretary of Transportation having the ability to work with our local and State governments. I would ask my colleagues to emphasize in the support of this amendment, to recognize that we are emphasizing the crucialness of the high transportation dollars to economic development.

I would hope that this appropriations bill, which is focused on Housing and Urban Development in many ways, and focused on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development as it serves sometimes the poorest people, transportation as it provides those same people the opportunity to seek employment or reach places of employment—they should not be constrained. Federal funding that is designated and provided should not be constrained.

I would lastly make this point: that when you go through the environmental process through NEPA and that process is completed, and it has all the t's crossed and the i's dotted and the hearings are in, it is important that this authority that I just mentioned is allowed to proceed. Again, I emphasize the Secretary may make grants under this section to State and local government authorities to assist in the financing of any number of transportation projects.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and with that, I will yield back with the point that, again, this meets the test of recognizing that important cities across America have the ability to receive this funding, including the fourth-largest city in the Nation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain my amendment.

Let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Ranking Member PASTOR and to Chairman LATHAM for their work on this legislation and long commitment and advocacy for sound domestic policy regarding our nations transportation systems and provide for affordable safe housing to our nation's citizens.

Houston is the fourth most populous city in the country; but unlike other large cities, we have struggled to have an effective mass transit system.

Over many decades Houston's mass transit policy was to build more highways with more lanes to carry more drivers to and from work.

The city of Houston has changed course and is now pursuing Mass transit options that include light rail.

This decision to invest in light rail is strongly supported by the increased use by Houstonians in the light rail service provided by previous transportation appropriations bills.

The April 2014, Houston metropolitan transit Authority report on weekly ridership states that 44,267 used Houston's light rail Service representing a 6,096 or 16% change in ridership in April of last year.

This increase in light rail usage outpaced ridership of other forms of mass transit in the city of Houston: metro bus had a 2.3% increase over April 2013; metro bus-local had a 1.3% increase over April 2013; and Metro bus-Park and ride had a 8.0% increase over April 2013.

On February 5, 2013, the Houston Chronicle reported on the congestion Houston drivers face under daily commute to and from work.

The article stated that Houston commuters continue to enjoy some of the worst traffic delays in the country, according to the 2012 urban mobility report, Houston area drivers wasted more than two days a year, on average, in traffic congestion, costing them each $1,090 in lost time and fuel.

Funds made available under this deal should be available for the construction of the University rail line and support of local government decisions by the Houston Metropolitan transit Authority and the city of Houston to expand rail service.

As elected officials and members of Congress we should allow local governments to decide how they will spend transportation dollars made available under this appropriations bill.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 156, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Unobligated funds made available to a State in fiscal year 2010 for the Interstate Maintenance Discretionary program under section 118(c) of title 23, United States Code, as in effect on the day before

the date of enactment of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112-141), may be made available, at that State's request, to the State for any project eligible under section 133(b) of such title.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, after speaking with the majority committee staff, and in deference to the wishes of the Chair, I want to be clear that I will be withdrawing this amendment at the conclusion of my control of time.

In fiscal year 2010, a number of transportation projects, including critical seismic safety projects, received appropriations from Congress but were unable to receive the funding due to an incorrect account designation in the appropriations act. According to the Department of Transportation, the funds remain unobligated but inaccessible due to the congressional error in the account designation.

Mr. Chair, crucial transportation projects needed to ensure public safety that were intended to be funded by Congress have been left without funding due to technical errors.

My amendment would ensure that those unobligated funds currently stuck in limbo would be made available for the surface transportation program projects. This shouldn't be controversial. There is already language in the underlying bill before us that does something very similar. It transfers unobligated funds appropriated in previous years from one transportation program to another.

I hope that, moving forward, the gentleman from Iowa will work with us to correct these accounting errors that have left crucial transportation projects without funding.

Mr. Chair, 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. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available under title II of this Act may be used to repay any loan made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, my amendment prohibits the Department of Housing and Urban Development grants from being used to repay loans from the same agency.

Under current practice, taxpayers can find themselves on the hook not only for loans to private developers, but also for repayments on those loans.

Now, even if one agrees with the questionable practice of government money being used to finance the building of hotels, parks, arenas, and restaurants, it is absurd that the government grants are also being used to repay such loans when the projects fail. This practice encourages cronyism and economic distortion while throwing away taxpayer money on projects that couldn't survive on their own with private funding.

Now, my amendment simply bars the use of grant money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from being used to pay back loans from the same agency. This commonsense amendment will ensure that taxpayer money isn't used to bail out developers or local governments when they make poor investment decisions—especially when these bad investments were made using taxpayer-funded loans to begin with. And I would note that an identical amendment to the one I am offering now was offered in the U.S. Senate by Senator TOM COBURN in October 2011, and it passed that body 73–26.

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. DESANTIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2215

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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC.__. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by 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.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, this amendment is identical to other amendments that have been inserted by voice vote into every appropriations bill that has been considered under an open rule in this Congress.

My amendment would expand the list of parties with whom the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting because of serious misconduct on the part of those contractors. It is my hope that this amendment will remain noncontroversial as it has always been, and again passed unanimously by the House.

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. 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:

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 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to retain any legal counsel who is not an employee of such Department or the Department of Justice.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a simple amendment that will save taxpayers money and prevent HUD from hiring outside counsel. This wasteful practice has been utilized by the agency in the past to conceal questionable operations, stifle inspector general investigations, and limit overall transparency.

Mr. Chairman, a recent report commissioned by Inspector General David Montoya revealed that the Philadelphia Housing Authority paid more than $30 million for outside legal services from April 2007 through August 2010. That is nearly $10 million a year in outside legal fees for one public housing authority in this country.

The inspector general report stated:

Alarmingly, the Public Housing Authority could not adequately support $4.5 million that it paid to outside attorneys during that period, virtually the entire limited amount we reviewed, raising questions about the propriety of the remaining $26 million in payments that we did not review. In addition, the Public Housing Authority made unreasonable and unnecessary payments of $1.1 million to outside attorneys to obstruct the progress of HUD Office of Inspector General audits. The Public Housing Authority also allowed an apparent conflict of interest situation to exist when it entered into a contract with a law firm that employed the son of its board chairman.

Mr. Chairman, all of this fraud and abuse was revealed by investigating one-fifth of the spending of one public housing authority during a 3-year period. There are more than 3,000 other public housing authorities throughout the country.

While not every public housing authority commits this type of abuse—and to be fair, some are responsible stewards of the taxpayer dollar—the bottom line is this is shameful and an unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer money. It is inexcusable and must not continue.

The bill we are discussing here today provides nearly $100 million for the sole purpose of funding HUD's Office of General Counsel.

As stated in the committee's report on the bill:

> It is the responsibility of the Office of General Counsel to provide legal opinions, advice, and services with respect to all programs and activities, and to provide counsel and assistance to the development of the Department's programs and policies.

In addition to having their own counsel, HUD also has access to attorneys within the Department of Justice. There is no logical reason HUD should be spending millions of dollars a year on outside counsel. The inspector general agrees and has previously stated:

> We have been concerned for some time about the extent to which some to public housing authorities use outside legal counsel.

I appreciate the inspector general for bringing forward this wasteful and fraudulent practice to the attention of Congress. I ask my colleagues to recognize the inspector general's recommendations and support this commonsense amendment.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I understand the gentleman's concern, but this can have some unintended consequences. But the main reason is that unfortunately this would not affect the public housing authorities at all. This would affect HUD employees. Public housing authorities are not HUD employees. So this amendment, and I wish the gentleman and I could have worked together on this, but it does nothing to the public housing authorities because it does not prohibit them from hiring outside legal, and that is unfortunate.

We have been saying for years and years and years to the authorizers that these are issues they need to address, and they haven't been able to do it. Unfortunately, we get in an appropriation bill and end up with a lot of these issues. But again, the main reason to oppose it is because it does nothing to the public housing authorities. They would still be able to continue their practices as they are.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Would the gentleman understand that all grants under HUD go to public housing and, therefore, they are subject all under?

Mr. LATHAM. All this would do is limit the employees of HUD, and it would do nothing to the PHA employees. PHA employees are not HUD employees; and all you are doing is limiting funding to HUD employees, so it would have no effect as far as the PHAs.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I agree with the chairman's interpretation of the amendment because public authorities have their own employees which they hire and are not HUD employees. They receive money from HUD in grants, but that does not make the public authority employees HUD employees. And as I understand the amendment as read and explained, this amendment would only affect HUD and its employees, and it is too broad. It would not meet what the inspector general was trying to do in trying to limit public authorities from hiring outside counsel. So I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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 question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. 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 Arizona will be postponed.

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:

> 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 develop or implement any rule to modify the criteria relating to citizenship that are applied in determining whether a person is eligible to be an operator (including a ship manager or agent) of a vessel in the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, the United States Government maintains a series of ships that are standby, available to the Navy to be used in our national defense. Historically, these ships have been crewed, owned, and operated by American citizens.

There may be an attempt underway to change that to allow these ships to be crewed, owned, and operated by foreign entities. This amendment would preclude that.

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 amendment was agreed to.

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:

> 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 implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing'', published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on July 19, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 43710; Docket No. FR–5173–P–01).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment intended to prevent yet another costly overreach by the Federal Government into the jurisdiction of local towns and communities.

HUD has proposed a new regulation, titled Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, which would grant the Department authority to dictate local zoning requirements in any community across the country that applies for a Community Development Block Grant.

According to reports, in 2012, this rule would have negatively impacted more than 1,200 municipalities throughout the country. A trial run of the rule already took place in New York. It failed miserably, and a local county was forced to reject $12 million in funds that would have benefited the community due to the impractical and unrealistic requirements associated with compliance.

The county had intended to use a large portion of the block grant funds to establish public housing for individuals in need. Clearly, this flawed proposal by HUD will increase local taxes, depress property values, and cause further harm to impoverished communities that are actually in need of these funds.

These new burdensome zoning rules being imposed by HUD bureaucrats on localities would be derived from tracked residential data based on citizens' race, sex, religion, and other federally protected demographics.

Multiple watchdog groups have raised serious and valid concerns about HUD's proposal. Americans for Limited Government President Nathan Mehrens wrote me in support of this amendment and stated:

> We call on every Member of the House to support Representative GOSAR's amendment to defund HUD's scheme to redraw zoning maps in any locality that accepts any part of the $3.5 billion a year in Community Development Block Grants from the Federal Government.

The utopian goal of creating evenly distributed neighborhoods based on racial composition and income is bad policy, and it is unconstitutional. HUD has no place in local zoning decisions. Under federalism, that is left up to States, counties, and municipalities to determine for themselves.

At a time when the Supreme Court is roundly rejecting racial quotas as unconstitutional, there is no place for wasting taxpayer dollars on social engineering that will never withstand judicial scrutiny.

Housing discrimination based on race has been illegal since the 1960s, and people should be allowed to choose for themselves where they live without D.C. bureaucrats nationalizing zoning decisions for political reasons.

Representative GOSAR deserves the thanks of all Americans for his courage in taking on this backdoor attempt to federalize our most basic living decisions.

Americans for Limited Government strongly supports Gosar's amendment to defund racial quotas in local zoning decisions.

I sincerely appreciate the strong support of this respected watchdog group. I completely agree that this misguided proposal by HUD is a clear infringement by the Federal Government on municipalities. HUD is essentially creating a thinly veiled set of rules and regulations by which these communities must conform or face losing out on billions of dollars in grant money.

What has been so wrong with the process thus far? Are there a plethora of examples of discriminatory applications of these grants? Couldn't the Federal Government simply deny further moneys to those grantees proved to have engaged in discrimination?

American citizens and communities should be free to choose where they would like to live and not be subject to Federal neighborhood engineering at the behest of an overreaching central government.

Further, the Federal Government must not hold hostage what are traditionally grant moneys to improve communities based on its quixotic ideas of what it believes every community should resemble. Local zoning decisions have traditionally been and should always be made by local communities, not bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

□ 2230

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment because it keeps the Federal Government from reorganizing communities to a fantastical standard.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment because its aim is to treat municipalities and individual citizens as capable and intelligent rather than disenfranchised, divided, and coddled groups in need of protection from a problem that does not exist.

As always, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The amendment prohibits HUD from implementing a new rule that was published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2013. The rule provides more data to local communities to comply with the Fair Housing Act and carry out their duties under the Fair Housing Act.

The rule does not change the statutory obligations of communities. It does not create social engineering, but rather asks for a more comprehensive report. The Fair Housing Act has been law for the past 45 years, and this rule does not change that law. This rule simply provides communities with more data to comply with their existing duties under the law.

I support fair housing, and I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's point and his advocacy for the Fair Housing Act.

As I mentioned, I abhor racial discrimination, but to my knowledge, there is no widespread examples of these block grants being used for discriminatory practices.

Has the Community Development Block Grant system thus far been such a failure to warrant this rule? My concerns are numerous, but I will outline the main two.

First and foremost, this is a major violation of federalism. The Federal Government has a long history of infringing upon states' rights and the Tenth Amendment. This rule seeks to go even further and puts the Federal Government down into the municipal planning process. This overreach is disturbing and unfortunately all too common in the Obama administration.

Second, it really opens up a Pandora's box of problems related to unconstitutional practices. The government is essentially using this rule as a thinly veiled attempt to implement some sort of social justice.

But this rule leaves a lot to interpretation, not only at the Federal level, but at the local level. It is not difficult to imagine lawsuits flying in both directions if this rule is finalized.

For instance, HUD is trying to lay out a framework by which it wishes to see these grant monies used to better integrate societies, a solution which seems to be in search of a problem. In doing so, HUD places a large burden on communities to write plans and grant applications which necessitate unconstitutional and prejudicial practices. Jim Crow is dead, and the free market and local policies have driven decisions such as community planning for years now.

How does a community make plans to enact these types of social justice without taking into consideration factors which we frown upon, factors such as racial demographics?

Let's move to the next step in the process, which is when the community is submitting their plan and an application to HUD for consideration. That is also incredibly difficult. For instance, one portion of the application which would simply be meant to appease HUD's quixotic standards of utopian society may open up the applicant municipality for lawsuits from the left and right.

Then HUD is charged with evaluating these applications to determine whether or not to award the grant. What exact criteria will HUD use to make these determinations? Might it be possible that HUD will deny grant monies to applicants based on HUD's opinion that the zoning plan did not do enough to integrate racial or religious clusters? The mere idea that HUD will be making such approvals or denials based even partially on these factors is counterintuitive and runs contrary to American values.

Imagine a denial letter from HUD on one of these applications. It will read one of two basic ways:

The first scenario is: Dear Community A, your block grant application has been denied because your plan did not integrate people of different races, ethnicities, or religions into one area. That would likely lead to an immediate lawsuit in which the court would uphold the municipality's case.

The second scenario would be a lengthy and wordy denial which is vague enough so that HUD does not open itself up to a lawsuit, but also so vague that the applicant will likely never know how to correctly plan and apply for one of these grants.

We see there are two separate and distinct avenues by which major lawsuits could fly and constitutional challenges arise. Both the Federal Government and the local government would be setting themselves up for failure.

If these issues arise and court challenges ensue, we have seen the recent patterns from the U.S. Supreme Court on issues of racial quotas and attempts at racial diversity. Again, the solution is looking for a problem. The mere notion that the Federal Government must step in and tamper with the most local of politics to integrate people of various races, economic statuses, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds is offensive to me and many of my constituents.

Mr. FLEMING. 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 question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes 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 Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have one last amendment at the desk, 129.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 administer the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Roadside Survey.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment to save taxpayers money, to protect the civil liberties and privacy of my constituents in accordance with the Fourth Amendment, and to champion efforts of local law enforcement and those advocacy groups which work hand-in-hand to curb citizens from driving under the influence.

My amendment is simple. It seeks to prohibit funds from being used to administer the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Roadside Survey. This ''survey'' looks like and acts like a police checkpoint and uses uniformed officers to pull cars over.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We would be more than happy to accept the amendment in the interest of time if we could move on.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, 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.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, our Nation is in the midst of a transportation and infrastructure crisis. In California alone, we have over 2,500 structurally deficient bridges in dire need of repair.

Current investments into transportation infrastructure are barely able to cover our Nation's most pressing needs, and critical projects in my district are the foundation of our growing economy. That is why in 2009 Congress created the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant program, known as TIGER. TIGER grants have successfully funded projects to revitalize and expand infrastructure across the country.

A grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was to provide roughly 50 percent of the funding needed to upgrade the SunLine Transit Agency's operations management system in my district. These upgrades allowed SunLine to integrate vehicle location technology, scheduling systems, and automatic passenger counters into their Web site to provide riders with a gateway for simple information, like when the next bus is going to arrive and if it will have room for passengers, which is important for my constituents to reduce wait times outside in our desert heat. This technology has improved ridership, taken vehicles off the road, reducing our carbon footprint. There are other projects in my district that could receive TIGER funding should we adequately fund it.

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments has developed a CV Link project to connect eight cities in the Coachella Valley, with a new alternate transportation route to the busiest corridor in our valley. A TIGER award paired with local investment would be enough to make it a reality. The project would create 690 jobs and potentially generate $147 billion in economic benefits through 2035 from sources such as increased tourism, reduced vehicle emissions, improved health conditions, and new jobs.

Mr. Chairman, this is why it is essential that we do not cut successful grant programs like TIGER, especially as our economy continues to recover and unemployment rates remain high. Ultimately, this is just part of the lack of funding for transportation infrastructure's story.

Within a few short months, the highway trust fund, which is responsible for the vast majority of Federal transportation funding, will run out of money. This will bring hundreds of transportation projects across the Nation to a grinding halt, eliminate the thousands of jobs they support, and jeopardize our economic recovery.

As Representatives, it is our responsibility to put aside our differences and work together to find a pragmatic, fiscally sound solution to fix the highway trust fund. Our communities in our districts are depending on us to demonstrate leadership to help them rebuild roads and bridges and operate public transit lines that take people to work, to their doctor's appointments, to grocery stores and, ultimately, keep our economy moving forward.

We must serve the people we represent by doing our jobs to find a bipartisan solution that addresses a highway trust fund crisis so critical infrastructure projects in my district and across the country are not ignored. I look forward to working with Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to get this done. I encourage all my colleagues to put aside partisanship and problem-solve this critical issue.

I want to thank Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member PASTOR for your great service. Thank you so much.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chair, I have amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 acquire a camera for the purpose of collecting or storing vehicle license plate numbers.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill that will prohibit the purchase of automated license plate readers that can record and indefinitely store innocent Americans' whereabouts as they drive by.

In the wake of the revelations about NSA data collection, Americans are now learning that police cars and traffic cameras are similarly accumulating a picture of their lives. In many States, there is no policy for how long the government may store the data, and so it is being retained indefinitely.

Just like phone metadata, this geolocation data with time stamps can be used to reconstruct intimate details of our lives, who we visit, where we worship, from whom we seek counseling, and how we might legally and legitimately protest the actions of our own government.

This language expands upon the prohibitions already adopted under previous MAP–21 reauthorizations preventing Federal funds from being used to purchase cameras for purposes of traffic law enforcement. Despite this prohibition, transportation grants can still currently be used to purchase cameras that collect and store license plate data even when no crime has been committed.

Certain highway safety grants within this bill can be used to purchase traffic monitoring systems that we see along highways. This amendment would not stop the purchase of such traffic monitoring cameras. It would only prohibit cameras that have the ability and the purpose of capturing and indefinitely storing the license plate information of innocent Americans.

Citizens of each State should have the opportunity to decide the question, but citizens of one State who oppose this policy should not subsidize such monitoring in other States. This amendment does not stop States from purchasing these cameras on their own. Each State should have an open and fair debate in their legislatures about what their citizens are comfortable with. This amendment gives States and local governments a 1-year pause on purchasing these cameras until Congress can deal with the issue more fully.

Therefore, I ask the support of all in this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I certainly understand the issue the gentleman is trying to get at.

□ 2245

I must oppose the amendment because I think there are some unintended consequences. As far as the way the amendment itself is written, in effect you are banning DOT or HUD from ever purchasing another camera for any use, in essence, because of the possibility it might capture a license plate somewhere.

It simply will also have a lot of wide unanticipated operational impacts across all of the programs in this bill. There could be a prohibition on purchases of aircraft control surveillance technologies at the FAA, an unintended ban on cameras used for safety purposes at airports and air traffic control facilities.

The prohibition could prevent Federal and State motor carrier inspectors from using camera-based technology to screen vehicles for compliance with safety regulations.

The broad nature of this prohibition will negatively affect key research program studies and crash investigations for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The prohibition could undermine revenue collection systems on several large toll-funded routes who take pictures of a license plate—and that is how they charge—and put Federal loans at risk of default not having that means of collecting those revenues.

At HUD, the prohibition, being as broad as it is, could prevent housing authorities from purchasing or operating security systems that are critical to the health and safety of the residents in the public housing and the surrounding communities.

I totally understand the gentleman's point, but there are some ramifications here. I think that maybe we could tailor it better, working on it together in the future, but at this point I would have to oppose the amendment, and I would urge a ''no'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLEMING. 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 Louisiana will be postponed.

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:

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 for recapitalization of the Ready Reserve Force of the National Defense Reserve Fleet except in a manner consistent with chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly referred to as the ''Buy American Act'').

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to take 5 minutes, but this issue is rather important.

In the long history of the United States Navy, we have always built our ships in America. The Ready Reserve Fleet is part of our national defense system. It provides ships that are necessary for the hauling of cargo that are always ready and available for the military to move its equipment—men, supplies, women—wherever they may need to go across the oceans.

That reserve fleet is going to need to be recapitalized and replaced over the next several years. The question before us is whether that fleet and those new ships will be built in America or in China or Japan or Korea.

This amendment would simply require that they be built in America, as they have in the past.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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 to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment imposes additional duties.

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. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The point of order issue has been rather flexible, as we have seen in previous appropriation bills that have been on this floor. When the majority wants to change the law, it seems as though a point of order isn't appropriate. But when someone else wants to address a crucial national issue, such as making sure our shipyards have the work and our Navy and the Ready Reserve Fleet is American built, then I suppose a point of order seems to have some further power. Therefore, I don't think a point of order is appropriate.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the gentleman from California.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination of whether certain actions are consistent with a provision of law not otherwise applicable to these actions.

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.

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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make bonus awards to contractors for work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this is a simple good government provision. It says that when a contractor goes over budget or is behind schedule the contractor should not be rewarded for that. None of the funds made available in this act may be used to pay for bonus awards to contractors who work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget.

The provision that we are talking about here appears in the Senate Transportation, Housing Appropriations bill that was reported out of the committee in the Senate last week. It should appear in our bill and it should be signed into law.

Nothing in this amendment places a blanket ban on bonuses to contractors. What this amendment does, however, is to demonstrate that Congress expects Federal projects to be delivered on time and on budget.

We have heard so many words over the years in this Chamber about waste, fraud, and abuse. This simple amendment accurately cracks down on those examples of waste, fraud, and abuse that arise and prevents taxpayer money from being squandered. If projects are not delivered on time and on budget, this amendment simply ensures that bad contractors are not rewarded extra for that poor performance.

With regard to the terms that are used, the term ''bonus award'' refers to the Federal acquisition regulation, title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations, subpart 16.4, having to do with incentive contracts. That term is defined in that provision.

With regard to the term ''work on projects,'' that simply refers to the contractor's contract.

With regard to the term ''behind schedule,'' that refers to the time of delivery. That is a provision that is in every contract in FAR 52.211–8 or FAR 52.211–9. The regulations specifically provide for time of delivery with a delivery schedule, and that is the term that is used in the regulation, and also in the contract itself. Those provisions

are proscribed in the Federal Acquisition Regulations in 48 C.F.R., subpart 11.4, specifically FAR 11.404.

The term ''over budget'' is very simply a reference to the contract award itself. The Federal Acquisition Regulations proscribes a specific form for that purpose in 48 C.F.R. 53, and that is Standard Form 33. In Box 22 of Standard Form 33 is the contract award amount. If the contractor goes over budget, the contract has exceeded the amount that appears in FAR 52.3 of 33 in the award amount box, in Box 20. The provision refers to cost reimbursement awards and it refers to time and material awards. If the goes over budget on a firm fixed price award, the contractor bears that expense. If the contractor goes over budget on a time and materials award or a cost reimbursement award and then seeks a bonus on top of that from the government, then that is what we are prohibiting here.

These are terms that are well recognized in the world of Federal contracting. This provision accurately targets overpayment to contractors, extra payment to contractors, bonus payment to contractors, when they have gone behind schedule or they are over budget.

I submit that the Senate was wise to include this in its bill. We should do the same.

I ask my colleagues respectfully for their support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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 to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment imposes additional duties.

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. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, it is simply not the case that this is legislating. It is simply not the case this imposes any additional duties.

As I indicated a few moments ago, the terms that are in this provision are terms that are ascertainable from every single government contract that is awarded. Every single government contract that is awarded by the Federal Government is done so through Standard Form 33. That lists the amount of the contract award.

Every single government contract that is awarded that has a delivery schedule—and not every one does—but every one that has a delivery schedule has a delivery schedule in the form of a provision in FAR 52.211–8 or 52.211–9.

All the government would have to do is simply observe the terms of its own contract and be able to ascertain these facts. When the government is looking at the terms of its own contract, that is something the government does every day; therefore, there is no additional legislating that is involved here.

I respectfully submit that this is not legislating. This is not asking the government to do anything in addition to what the government already is required to do. It is simply prohibiting a waste of expenditure, a waste of funds, and that is exactly a primary purpose of these appropriation bills.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, the rationale for the point of order is projects can be broad in scope, both in terms of the purpose of the project and the number and types of contractors involved.

For an agency to determine whether a specific bonus can be awarded, this amendment would require the agency to also determine whether the project as a whole is over budget or behind schedule, not simply the part of the project pertaining to the agency awarding the bonus.

So I, again, would insist on my point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard to respond to the last comment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair will hear further argument from the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, responding to the last point, respectfully, again, these are contract terms that are defined in the contract itself.

The gentleman has a point that the term ''project'' is one that could be taken to refer to something other than a contract if we were not talking about Federal contracting. Here we are talking about Federal contracts only, so the term ''project'' refers to what the contractor is working on.

There is no ambiguity here. Either the contract is on schedule or it is off schedule. Either the contract is over budget or it is on budget or it is under budget. There is simply no ambiguity involved here.

If we were legislating, then I would see the gentleman's point, but in this particular case we are not. Therefore, I respectfully request that the point of order be overruled and we be allowed to proceed to a vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the gentleman from Iowa.

The gentleman from Iowa makes a point of order that the amendment violates clause 2 of rule XXI by requiring a new determination by a relevant Federal official.

Specifically, the amendment would require each contracting official to determine whether any aspect of a project is behind schedule or over budget, especially if multiple agencies have entered into separate contracts on the same project.

Absent a showing that this determination is already required by law, the Chair is constrained to find that the amendment violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

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:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act and administered by the Department of Transportation may be used on a transportation project unless all contracts carried out within the scope of the applicable National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 finding, determination, or decision are Buy America compliant. If the Secretary finds that such a requirement is not in the public interest, this requirement can be waived, but only if the designation is justified and made available for public comment 30 days before the waiver takes effect.

□ 2300

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I understand the point of order. We are going to be facing that with my other six amendments, but I would like to speak to this issue and also to the others at the same time, and I will drop the other amendments.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of driving across San Francisco Bay on the brandnew east San Francisco Bay Bridge, a multibillion-dollar project. The steel of that project in its main section was built in China. It was fabricated in China. The Chinese steel company built a new steel mill, the most advanced in the world. There were 3,000 Chinese jobs and zero American jobs.

The way they are able to get around the Buy American provisions is that the State of California segmented the multibillion-dollar project into 20 different pieces, therefore avoiding the Buy America provisions on this crucial center span of that bridge. This amendment would prohibit that from ever happening again.

The other amendments speak to the $50 billion that is going to be spent by this bill and would require, in various

ways, that that money be spent here in America on American-made goods, American steel, American products, and on American workers.

We ought to buy in America. We ought to make this other national policy. We ought never have another Bay Bridge. We ought to do what we did in the American Recovery Act that required that some $800 million for Amtrak locomotives be spent on 100 percent American-made. Indeed, Siemens, a German company, has established a manufacturing plant in Sacramento to manufacture those locomotives.

One of the other amendments I will not be taking up tonight deals specifically with the rolling stock for public transportation, that it, too, be American-made and that we increase the percentage of American content from 60 percent to 100 percent.

This is American taxpayer money. That money ought to be spent in America. American taxpayers should demand it. The Members of Congress should demand that their taxpayers' money be spent on American-made equipment, goods, and services. This is part of the Make It In America agenda.

It is most specific here at this time, as we are about to, in the next day, spend $50 billion of American taxpayer money. Are we going to spend it on American-made equipment, American goods and services? Or are they going to be coming from China or somewhere else in the world?

The question is very straightforward for all of us. Unfortunately, because of the point of order that will be raised on this and the other six amendments, we will not have a chance tonight, tomorrow, and perhaps in the days ahead, to really do something for America in rebuilding our manufacturing sector by requiring that our taxpayer money be spent on American-made goods, services, and on American workers.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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 to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination of compliance with a law not otherwise applicable.

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.

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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize, approve, or implement a toll on existing free lanes on any segment of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prohibit any funds appropriated by this bill from being used for the purpose of establishing a toll on any existing free lane of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

I–4, as we call it back home, is the most traveled road in the central Florida region. Thousands of my constituents, each day, commute to and from work using the road. To use their hard-earned tax dollars to implement a new fee on our commutes just seems wrong to me, and that is why I am offering this amendment.

I don't think Floridians should be treated any differently in this bill than, frankly, Texans are on pages 31 and 32 of this bill.

My constituents would like to keep their freeway free, and I don't blame them, particularly when ground has been broken on new toll lanes that will run right down the middle of I–4.

Local authorities are free to build new lanes and expressways, as is the Federal Government, and provide for construction as they see fit, but I am here to make sure that the existing free lanes on I–4 remain untolled.

I urge support for this amendment. After all, a toll is very much like a tax, as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should recognize.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. There are multiple toll finance projects along the I–4 corridor that could potentially be disrupted by this prohibition.

Further, this prohibition could undermine the creditworthiness of pending applications for Federal loans to support critical projects along I–4.

This route crosses multiple Members' districts, and it is not clear what effect it may have on future I–4 projects.

Therefore, I must urge a ''no'' vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, this amendment was originally drafted to apply to both new and existing lanes. This amendment was redrawn and redrafted to specifically limit it to existing free lanes.

All of the contract work that is being done in central Florida, and in fact around the country at this point, would not be affected by this amendment because it applies to only existing free lanes.

My question to the gentleman from Iowa is, Did the gentleman realize that the amendment had been modified before the gentleman opposed the amendment?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona controls the time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Yes, we were aware of it. We have been advised by the DOT of the ramifications of this amendment in the revised form. That is why I rise in opposition. It is DOT's concerns we are raising.

Mr. GRAYSON. I thank the gentleman for the clarification.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. 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. GRAYSON).

The amendment was rejected.

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:

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 provide a per-passenger subsidy in excess of $250 under the Essential Air Service program.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, the Essential Air Service program, or EAS, is an expensive government handout. It is, in effect, welfare for airplanes.

Page 9 of this bill states that, under the EAS, the per-passenger subsidy for flights that would otherwise not exist to rural communities, excluding Hawaii and Alaska, is capped at $500 per passenger. That is simply too high.

I don't see any reason why we should be paying people $500 to fly from communities like Muscles Shoals, not when this Congress is cutting food aid programs and development block grants to communities.

I think this is a very poor use of taxpayer funds. It is an example of the waste, fraud, and abuse that we constantly decry.

My amendment would reduce the $500 per passenger subsidy allowed under the EAS to a still very high $250 because $500 per passenger is simply outrageous.

If passengers don't want to fly those aviation routes, then those subsidies

shouldn't exist, and in fact, the routes should exist.

For $500 per passenger, we could rent a limousine for every single person that boards these EAS flights and drive them to the nearest commercial airport.

I understand the need for rural services for necessary aspects of life like Postal Service, telephones, and even the Internet, but I cannot understand the need to subsidize regular airline flights that would otherwise not exist to the tune of $500 per passenger.

Many of these flights fly empty. Many have only one or two or three passengers on them on a large airplane. They exist only because the government is paying the bill. We are taxing people to subsidize other people's airfare.

The bill before us today would cut funding for transit starts by 13 percent, TIGER grants by 80 percent, public housing modernization by 5 percent, and the home program for 30 percent, among other things. Under these circumstances, I cannot stand here in good conscience and allow a subsidy like this to continue.

I offer this amendment today because it is more important to put a roof over the heads of the poor in this housing bill and to make sure that people have a means to gets to work and to get to their families and their loved ones in this transportation bill, than it is to hand out corporate welfare to United Airlines.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. 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 to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment requires a new determination with respect to the calculation of a per-passenger subsidy.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on this point of order?

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, this very same bill limits this subsidy to $500 per passenger. Earlier on in this bill, that is a determination that this bill requires to be made. I am simply changing that figure from $500 to $250. It is, shall I say, unwarranted.

To say that that is expecting any new law, enacting anything new, it is simply modifying another provision in this specific act.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination.

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.

Mr. LATHAM. 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. LATHAM) having assumed the chair, Mr. CHAFFETZ, 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. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 3, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3080. To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1726. To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5871. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Program: Amendment of Procedures and Notification of Request for Referendum [Docket No.: AMS-LPS-13-0066] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5872. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Milk in the Appalachian and Southeast Marketing Areas; Order Amending the Orders [Doc. No.: AMS-DA-09-0001; AO-388-A17 and AO-366-A46; DA-05-06-A] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5873. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on National Guard Counterdrug Schools Activities, pursuant to Public Law 109-469, section 901(f); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5874. A letter from the Director, Congressional Activities, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the annual report on the use or development of data mining; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5875. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the report on the payment of a Foreign Language Skill Proficiency Bonus to members of precommissioning programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5876. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the 100th Annual Report for Calendar Year 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5877. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (West Baton Rouge Parish, LA, et al.) [Docket: ID FEMA-2014-0002] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5878. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Norfolk County, MA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8331] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5879. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to LATAM Airlines Group S.A of Santiago, Chile pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5880. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation for Certain Industrial Equipment: Alternative Efficiency Determination Methods and Test Procedures for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-TP-0024] (RIN: 1904-AC46) received May 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5881. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2013 National Healthcare Quality Report and the 2013 National Healthcare Disparities Report; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5882. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agnecy, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-13, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5883. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the periodic report on the National Emergency Caused by the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979 for August 26, 2013 — February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5884. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5885. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for

October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5886. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indian Child Welfare Act; Change of Address (RIN: 1076-AF21) received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5887. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan [Docket No.: 131213999-4281-02] (RIN: 0648-BD82) received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5888. A letter from the Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjusting the Penalty for Violation of Notice Posting Requirements (RIN: 3046-AA95) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5889. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement [USCBP-2013-0040] (RIN: 1515-AD93) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5890. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure: Procedures for Automatic Change in Method of Accounting for Sales-Based Royalties and Sales-Based Vendor Chargebacks (Rev. Proc. 2014-33) received May 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. CAMPBELL:

H.R. 4809. A bill to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FLORES, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. COOK, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BARR, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LATTA, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SALMON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VELA, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. AMASH, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MICA, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FORBES, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. COLE, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. REED, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KLINE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. POMPEO):

H.R. 4810. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 4811. A bill to provide for a notice and comment period before the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection issues guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 4812. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HALL, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BARR, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HARPER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SALMON, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. CARTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. COOK, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KLINE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H.R. 4813. A bill to nullify certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to greenhouse gas emissions from existing, new, and modified or reconstructed electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 4814. A bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; 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 Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4815. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide career education pathways in manufacturing; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4816. A bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces, to provide certain services to those descendants, to establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed 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 Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 4817. A bill to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for gang prevention programs through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued postage stamps; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 4818. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account program conducted by the Department of Defense to assist spouses of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty to pursue educational opportunities and career training, to ensure that such educational opportunities and training are available to all military spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 4819. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and submit class life recommendations for depreciable assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4820. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national program to conduct and support activities toward the goal of significantly reducing the number of cases of overweight and obesity among individuals in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.J. Res. 116. A joint resolution providing for the approval of the Congress of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy transmitted on May 8, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 612. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Mexico should forthwith repatriate Sgt. Andrew Paul Tahmooressi from Mexican prison(s) and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President of the United States should take actions to impose sanctions on Mexico until such time as Sgt. Tahmooressi is released; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. CLAY):

H. Res. 613. A resolution commemorating the centennial of Webster University; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. COTTON introduced a bill (H.R. 4821) for the relief of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, Martin Wani, and Maya Wani; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. CAMPBELL

H.R. 4809

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The sources of constitutional authority for this bill are as follows:

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 Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause): ''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;''

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (the Necessary and Proper Clause): ''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. MILLER of Florida

H.R. 4810

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STUTZMAN

H.R. 4811

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution which gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. RICHMOND

H.R. 4812

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority for this bill stems from Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY

H.R. 4813

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation 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. MARINO

H.R. 4814

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: ''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 Ms. BROWNLEY of California

H.R. 4815

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HONDA

H.R. 4816

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois

H.R. 4817

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 3 (''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes [.]'').

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 7 (''The Congress shall have Power . . . To establish post Offices and post Roads[.]'').

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 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. MURPHY of Florida

H.R. 4818

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this bill is enacted pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida

H.R. 4819

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states that the Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. NORTON

H.R. 4820

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. COTTON

H.R. 4821

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4: ''The Congress shall have Power To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization''

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois

H.J. Res. 116

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 36: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 279: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 318: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 322: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 375: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 401: Mr. LANCE and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 411: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 485: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 543: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 594: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 679: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 715: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 789: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 808: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 847: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 920: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 929: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 958: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 962: Mr. COHEN, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 1020: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1070: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1091: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 1240: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 1249: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1250: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1274: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1317: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1354: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1418: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1419: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1428: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER

H.R. 1429: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1494: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 1507: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1563: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COOPER, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1597: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 1666: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1728: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1826: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 1837: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1852: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1975: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 2001: Ms. MOORE and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 2086: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 2116: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2117: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2192: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 2324: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2342: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2377: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2453: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas,

Mr. RENACCI, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. OWENS, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 2499: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2529: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 2536: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 2663: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 2727: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2750: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 2772: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2827: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 2835: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2852: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 2918: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2921: Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 2959: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 2994: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 2997: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 3097: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 3116: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3135: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3351: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 3382: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 3383: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3398: Mr. HONDA, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. PITTS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 3439: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 3490: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 3531: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 3554: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 3558: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3574: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3707: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 3722: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3747: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 3858: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 3877: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3905: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3991: Mr. MCALLISTER and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 3992: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 4014: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4016: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4035: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 4068: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 4086: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 4119: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4122: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4144: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4166: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4187: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4188: Mr. GIBSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 4190: Mr. POCAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NUNES, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4191: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4208: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4217: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 4221: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 4227: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4237: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4262: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 4272: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4285: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4351: Mr. WALZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TERRY, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4361: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4365: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 4383: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 4384: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4385: Mr. TONKO and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4395: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4399: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4426: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4446: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4450: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 4510: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 4574: Mr. CLAY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SIRES, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4577: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 4578: Ms. TITUS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4582: Mr. SIRES, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FARR, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mrs.. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4589: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4590: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4607: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4622: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4629: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4630: Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 4631: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4634: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4653: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4664: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. Delaney, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HOLT, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4677: Mr. WOODALL and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 4680: Mr. DELANEY and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 4698: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. YODER, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 4699: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4701: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4704: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4706: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4723: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FARR, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4759: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 4777: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 4781: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4783: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4784: Mr. RUSH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4786: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 4792: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 4795: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 4802: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 4805: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.J. Res. 20: Mr. ELLISON.
H.J. Res. 21: Mr. ELLISON.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. HENSARLING.
H. Res. 30: Mr. KILMER and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Res. 72: Mr. LYNCH.
H. Res. 109: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. SIRES.
H. Res. 118: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H. Res. 387: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Res. 489: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. WOLF.
H. Res. 532: Mr. ENYART.
H. Res. 587: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H. Res. 600: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MESSER, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 606: Mr. HOLT, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 608: Mr. ROYCE.
H. Res. 610: Mr. CLAY.
H. Res. 611: Ms. ESTY.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. POE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 52, strike lines 13 through 21.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. WALBERG

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 10, strike lines 12 through 14.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. WATERS

AMENDMENT NO. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. 4. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require the relocation, or to carry out any required relocation, of any asset management positions of the Office of Multifamily Housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. ROYCE

AMENDMENT NO. 5: 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 for the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 70, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,500,000)''.

Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,500,000)''.

Page 71, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,500,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 112, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $150,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make bonus awards to contractors for work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by 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. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize, approve, implement, or assist in any way a toll on any segment of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 11: Page 52, strike lines 13 through 21.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 36, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 36, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 80, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 71, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 15: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 82, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 16: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 80, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 72, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 82, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 18: Page 85, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

Page 86, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 19: Page 106, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 20: Page 111, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 21: Page 113, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 22: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''Federal Transit Administration—Transit Formula Grants'' may be used in contravention of section 5309 of title 49, United States Code.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT NO. 23: 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 promulgate or enforce rules, orders, or consent agreements or to fund approved projects under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program unless the Department of Transportation implements the recommendations provided in the preliminary report of the Government Accountability Office number GAO–14–628R TIGER Grants.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 24: Page 99, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 25: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize, approve, implement, or assist in any way a toll on existing free lanes on any segment of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 26: 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 provide a per-passenger subsidy in excess of $250 under the Essential Air Service program.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GOHMERT

AMENDMENT NO. 27: Page 85, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,100,000)''.

Page 87, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $17,600,000)''.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $24,700,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 28: 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 provide mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for any mortgage on a 1- to 4-family dwelling to be used as the principal residence of a mortgagor who provides only an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) for identification.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 29: 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 pay a Federal employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time under section 7131 of title 5, United States Code.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 30: Page 112, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. LOWENTHAL

AMENDMENT NO. 31: Page 156, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Unobligated funds made available to a State in fiscal year 2010 for the Interstate Maintenance Discretionary program under section 118(c) of title 23, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112–141), may be made available, at that State's request, to the State for any project eligible under section 133(b) of such title.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. BASS

AMENDMENT NO. 32: At the end of the bill before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary or the Federal Transit Administration to implement, administer, or enforce section 18.36(c)(2) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, for construction hiring purposes.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014 No. 88

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

King of glory and peace, Your love sustains us. Each day You give us Your peace and joy, providing rest to the weary and renewing the strength of those exhausted by life's trials.

In Your compassion lead our lawmakers to Your desired destination. When they cry to You for help, be their strength and shield. Lord, You are peace, joy, gladness, gentleness, beauty, and truth. Be our protector, guardian, and defender from this time forth even forever more.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, the Warren college affordability legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2432) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. this evening. At 5:30 there will be three cloture votes on nominations of U.S. district judges: Lauck of Virginia, Sorokin of Massachusetts, and Boulware of Nevada.

(Ms. HIRONO assumed the Chair.)

LAS VEGAS TRAGEDY

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is with a lot of sadness that I come to the floor today following the tragic event that took place in Las Vegas yesterday.

I spoke with Sheriff Gillespie this morning.

Two police officers were having lunch in a pizza restaurant on Nellis Boulevard in Las Vegas, and two people walked in, shot them both and killed them, took their guns and their badges, put some kind of a flag over them representing whomever they were representing, and walked across the street to Wal-Mart and killed an innocent woman. Then they killed themselves. All the details are not available, but there is no question they were murdered in cold blood—for no reason other than the weirdness or craziness of this couple.

So all of Nevada mourns the loss of our neighbors, our friends and, in the case of Officers Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo, our protectors. My sympathy goes to their family members and loved ones. This hits very close to home.

Many years ago when I practiced law, I brought a fine young man into my law firm named Claude Zobell. Claude has been with me for all these years. He ran my Washington office. He went on to become dean of a law school, and he is now an attorney for a hotel chain in Tennessee. But he has helped me all these years fill out my financial disclosures. His nephew, his wife's mom's son, was one of the police officers killed. Anne, Claude Zobell's daughter, works for me here in Washington. I talked to him this morning. The cousin was killed. The pain that people go through in these unnecessary tragedies and senseless shootings is awful.

No words can undo the unspeakable act which claimed the lives of these two men. They have families—wives, children. So that their families know, not only is Nevada grieving but all of America is grieving.

My thanks go to the law enforcement officers who were called in after the killings to work at that scene and the scene across the street, putting their lives in peril every step of the way. It seems that our law enforcement officers respond to these scenes every day—in Santa Barbara, in Seattle, and on and on with the names of cities where people are shot. I so appreciate these law officers every day putting their lives on the line.

We take for granted here in the Senate the people looking after us. There are people out there who are so evil, who try every day to do harm to not only the Presiding Officer, not only me, but to people who work in these buildings, the tourists that come to these buildings. So if there are any complaints about having too much security, come to me and I will try to explain why we need it.

So without elaborating, my deepest sympathies are with the families of those who died.

We in Congress have a duty to put in place legislation that helps prevent these deranged, weird, and evil people who carry out such savage acts of violence. A step in the right direction would be background checks so that people who are criminals, who are deranged, can't buy a gun. The American people are depending on us to pass legislation to prevent gun violence to safeguard our communities, schools, and families.

There is not a single Senator I know of who says: Let's get rid of all the guns; let's make sure that people don't

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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have guns. We are not saying that. Listen to what we are saying.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, we have a lot to do this week. We need to confirm some people as we are still way behind.

Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE—the junior Senator from Rhode Island has been a real trooper—has been so enthused and so invigorated; he has traveled the country alerting the American people to the dangers of what is happening to our world regarding climate. It has been a one-man show. Tonight he is going to work with a number of Senate Democrats in highlighting the need for congressional action to fight climate change. I applaud him for his work on this issue. He has focused like no other on our changing world.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

The care of our Nations' veterans is another issue we need to talk about, and we will talk about that today, also.

Last Thursday Senator BERNIE SANDERS, Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Senator JOHN MCCAIN announced a bipartisan agreement on legislation to address patient wait times at VA hospitals. The details of the agreement are not in writing yet. At least they weren't a few minutes ago. They are being drafted. The legislation is a comprehensive approach to ensure that veterans are getting the care they deserve. This agreement is very important to all Nevadans, to all Americans, and of course it is extremely important to countless veterans and their families.

Recently, along with America and this body, I was shocked to learn that VA hospitals all over the country—and in Nevada in particular—were affected by dangerous wait times for patients. That is unacceptable. This legislation worked on by SANDERS and MCCAIN is not going to solve all the problems that exist, but it is certainly putting the VA on the right track.

This bipartisan agreement aims to improve accountability throughout the entire Veterans Affairs Administration, holding VA officials responsible for poor job performance. One of the things we learned is that they covered up wait times. Why? Because by doing that they would get bonuses at the end of the year. So that will stop.

This legislation will also take big steps in addressing accessibility to health care at VA institutions nationwide. The agreement will allow veterans facing long delays to seek health care outside of the VA—in private doctors' offices, community health centers, military hospitals, and other places that SANDERS and MCCAIN are now working on.

Their legislation will expedite the hiring for VA doctors and nurses and authorize 26 new medical facilities nationwide.

In addition to improving access and accountability throughout the Veterans Administration, this bipartisan agreement addresses other important issues such as GI eligibility for surviving spouses and in-state tuition to veterans enrolling in colleges and universities.

Much will depend on the details of the final bill, but Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN have put together an agreement which is good for American veterans and our country. I commend them. I commend especially Senator SANDERS for his leadership in this issue since he has been working on veterans care. It is a clear indication how much he values this Nation's servicemembers. In JOHN MCCAIN we could not have a more exemplary person dealing with VA health care as a result of his having spent long periods of time in VA facilities around the country as he was recovering from his ordeal in Vietnam. So I appreciate him in many different ways, but today for his labors in bringing both sides to the table to get something done on behalf of our veterans.

I look forward to this legislation coming before us, and I will be happy to schedule a vote on it as quickly as possible. America's veterans are depending on us to complete this legislation to ensure that our veterans get the care and resources they were promised by a grateful Nation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

It appears there is no one rushing to the floor to speak, so I would ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer announce the business of the day.

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 until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Madam President.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Last year something happened in Washington, DC, that most of us in the Senate and most Americans would like to see more of. The President and the Republican House of Representatives and a bipartisan group here in the Senate worked together to reform the student loan program. It is a lot of money, and it affects a lot of students.

Every year the Federal Government loans about $100 billion to students who attend colleges and universities around this country. We have 6,000 of those higher education institutions. In addition to those loans—which, of course, students pay back—the Federal Government grants about $33 or $34 billion each year in Pell grants—up to $5,645—which students don't pay back.

Last year we were in this usual pattern that has developed around the Congress where student loans become a semi-annual political stunt. Every 2 years, before an election, one party or the other would show up with a student loan proposal to try to appeal to students, hoping that students and others in America would reward them with their votes.

Last year we changed that for new student loans. The President and the Republican House of Representatives and the Democratic Senate in a bipartisan way worked together to reform the student loan program by applying a market-priced system to the $100 billion or so we loan every year, and saying to the students: We will give you the benefit of that. You don't have to wait for Congress to engage in its semi-annual political stunt to know what your loan is.

The result was that for loans for undergraduate students, which are 85 percent of all the loans, we were able to cut in half the interest rate on student loans for undergraduate students in America without raising taxes and without raising the debt. That resulted from overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate. It had strong support of the chairman of the Senate education committee, the HELP Committee, Senator HARKIN and I supported it, as did many others. It worked the way the Senate is supposed to work.

This body is for the purpose of taking an important issue, which student loans are, having an extended debate on it until we come to a consensus, which we did, and then coming to a result the American people could approve. We did that as well.

Now this week we are seeing something entirely different. Senate Democrats would interrupt a serious discussion that is going on in the Senate education committee about reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, which was first enacted in 1965. Senator HARKIN, the Senator from Iowa, is our chairman. I am the ranking Republican on that committee. We have had 10 hearings. We have been hard at work. We have had terrific testimony, some very good ideas about the student loan program and about a lot of issues affecting higher education. We are doing what we are supposed to do in the Senate: We are trying to come to a conclusion so that we can recommend in a bipartisan way to this full body what to do about higher education for the next several years, including student loans.

Yet, all of a sudden, we hear that Senate Democrats want to show up on the floor with a partisan, political stunt that interrupts the work of the Senate education committee, and here is what they would do: They would

raise individual income taxes, they would raise the debt, and, based upon data from the Congressional Research Service, they would give some former students with old student loans a $1-a-day Federal subsidy to pay off their loans.

Let me go back over the terms of this proposal just so everybody has it in mind. The main issue is $1 a day subsidy. That is the benefit. It doesn't do anything for current or new students. For some former students—according to the Congressional Budget Office, maybe half the loans—the taxpayers will give them $1 a day to help pay off their student loans.

Along with that, we increase the Federal debt by up to $420 billion. That debt is out of control to begin with. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that over the next 10 years we are going to go from $200 billion to $800 billion just to pay interest on the debt. In 10 years we will be spending more on interest on our national debt than we will on national defense. Yet for this political stunt we are going to run that up another $420 billion maybe or close to $½ trillion.

That is not all. To pay for all of this, we are going to raise individual income taxes by $72 billion. This is a familiar proposal. This is the class warfare tax increase the Senate has rejected eight times. There is nobody in this Senate who thinks this will pass the Senate the ninth time it is brought up. It is only being brought up and interrupting what we are doing in our committee for a partisan political stunt.

We are going to raise the debt and increase taxes for what? Well, to help students pay off their loans. So they get $1 a day to pay off what loan? Well, 85 percent of the student loans—and there are a lot of them. There is over $1 trillion worth of outstanding student loans because we have a lot of students and we are a big country. We have 6,000 colleges and universities. But 85 percent of loans are for undergraduate students and they have $21,600 on average. That is right. We are talking about 1 or 2 years for students who go to community colleges. Some get a 4-year degree. But for 85 percent of the student loans that are undergraduate loans, $21,600 is the average debt. It is not $300,000. It is not $200,000. It is not $100,000. It is $21,600. Of those undergraduate loans, this is the average debt for a Federal student loan.

If you attend a 4-year college or university, such as the University of Tennessee or the University of California or Michigan or wherever you are, and you borrowed money to go to school—the average debt is $27,300 for students who graduate with a 4-year college degree.

It is about the same for a new car loan. Sometimes students take out a car loan before they take out a student loan. To get a sense of how big a burden this loan is for the average graduate with a 4-year degree, it is the same as a car loan. I suspect that if we are going to have a $1-a-day taxpayer subsidy to pay off a $27,000 student loan, the next thing you know the Democrats are going to show up during the election year and say: Let's have $1 a day to help people pay off their $27,000 car loans. At least we know that the day you drive your car off the lot, it starts depreciating.

What do we know about a college education? If you have a 4-year degree, according to the College Board, it is worth $1 million in increased earnings during your lifetime. That is according to the College Board. No one really contradicts that. I saw a very good article by a New York Times economist a couple of weeks ago that had a little different number. They were using a net negative of $½ million after you deduct the cost of going to college. A person with a college education will have $½ million to $1 million in increased earnings. Can you think of a better investment than $27,000 to earn $1 million over your lifetime? Well, that is what a college degree does.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle are saying we need to raise the debt and taxes so we can help college graduates—who will be earning $1 million more over their lifetime—pay off a $27,000 loan. College students don't need a $1-a-day Federal taxpayer subsidy to pay off a $27,000 student loan, which is the average loan for a 4-year college degree. They need a job, and Republicans are prepared—if this comes to the floor—to offer amendments to help create more new good jobs. We tried several times to do that, but the majority leader doesn't like us to bring up these issues.

For example, we would like to offer a bill to increase the hours of the workweek from 30 to 40 hours under the health care law, which has bipartisan support, but it would change the health care law, so we can't offer that amendment.

We would like to offer an amendment to build the Keystone Pipeline. Well, that has 60 or so Senators on both sides of the aisle—maybe more than that—who voted for it and say they support it, but the majority leader doesn't want us to bring up that one.

We would like to have an amendment to give the President the trade promotion authority that President Obama has asked for. President Obama sees the world. He sees Asia. He is negotiating a treaty with Asia and a trade treaty with Europe. He would like to see more American exports go to Europe and Asia, which would increase jobs at home. He stood right here at the State of the Union and asked Congress to approve that, but the majority leader said: No, we are not going to bring that up.

We have a Workforce Investment Act that we hope will come up this week.

We would like to repeal the ObamaCare individual mandate.

There are a number of provisions we would like to bring up as far as jobs go, but this $1-a-day subsidy is supposed to be the keystone of the Democrats' jobs program. We are ready to talk about jobs, and we will have amendments when this comes to the floor.

If the subject is education, we are ready to talk about education. It would certainly be a lot better if we considered bills on the floor that have actually gone through the education committee.

I complimented the Senator from Iowa earlier. I have enjoyed working with him. I am the ranking member on the Republican side, and he is the ranking member on the Democrat side. The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has been the most productive committee in this Senate. It has a large jurisdiction. We passed 19 bills out in a bipartisan way, and 10 of them have become law. I don't think any other committee can say that. We take our work very seriously, just as we are doing today on the Higher Education Act and just as we did when we tried to fix No Child Left Behind.

The HELP Committee spent a good deal of time on No Child Left Behind. We reported a bill to the Senate floor. Republicans and Democrats offered competing proposals. Democrats effectively wanted to double down on what I call a national school board and Republicans wanted to reverse the trend towards a national school board by sending most decisions back to State and local communities.

We want to fix No Child Left Behind. We have competing visions of how to do this, but I committed to bring the Democratic bill to the floor so we could have a debate. The House is ready to fix No Child Left Behind, and the Senate education committee is ready to fix No Child Left Behind. We want to have a debate about education this week. Let's bring up a bill that has been considered by the committee—where there are competing proposals—and fix No Child Left Behind. Better schools means higher college graduation rates, and that means better jobs.

We are ready to offer our amendments for better jobs. We are ready to offer our amendments for better schools.

In addition to our proposal for reversing the trend toward a national school board, I have introduced a proposal to create scholarships for kids. Did you know that if you took 80 Federal education programs that spend about $24 billion a year and gave States authority to do this, they could create $2,100 scholarships that follow 11 million low-income children in America to the public or accredited private school of the parents' choice? We would not impose a school choice plan on any State. We don't believe in mandates. But if a State wanted to use the money to follow the low-income student to their school so they can have an after-school program or an extra teacher, a Governor could do that under this proposal.

Senator SCOTT of South Carolina has offered a similar proposal for the six

million children with disabilities. His proposal says: If you have a child with Down syndrome and find a school that better fits that child's needs, why not allow that Federal disability money to follow the child to the school they attend? Let the parent make that choice. We are ready to offer that amendment.

We have a quality charter schools proposal. Six percent of the public schools in America are charter schools. Charter schools are public schools that give parents more choices and teachers more freedom to serve the children who are in that school. They began more than 20 years ago, and they have bipartisan support. President Clinton was in Nashville not along ago announcing his support and raising money for a charter school.

I have an amendment to stop the Education Secretary from becoming chairman of a national school board. States are struggling with the unworkable requirements of No Child Left Behind. There is a provision in the law that allows the Secretary of Education to grant waivers to states from certain provisions of No Child Left Behind, but this Secretary, who is a fine man and a great friend, has said: If Oregon or Hawaii or Washington or Tennessee wants a waiver, they must agree to do four or five things that aren't otherwise required in the law. States have to adopt certain standards, implement certain teacher evaluation systems, and set performance targets as conditions for receiving a waiver. I don't think the Secretary of Education has the authority to place these conditions on states. The American people don't want a national school board.

If they want to talk about education, we are ready with amendments on education. If they want to introduce a class warfare tax, we are ready to talk about taxes as well. We would like to repeal the medical device tax, and we are looking for an opportunity to offer that. If they are going to put a tax provision on the floor, let's have a tax debate. Let's have a debate about permanent State and local tax deductions. Let's prohibit the individual tax mandate in ObamaCare. Let's make the expensing of Section 179 permanent. Senator THUNE has that proposal, and the House is acting on it this week. Let's make the research and development tax credit permanent, which has bipartisan support as well. If the subject is just higher education, we have amendments about that as well.

The place for these amendments and this discussion is in our Senate education committee where we are discussing those ideas today. The way to do it this year is the way we did it last year. When the President, to his great credit, saw an opportunity to work with the Republicans in the House, he came over here to a bipartisan group, and we hammered out an agreement on a very big subject that, as I said, nearly cut the interest rate in half on undergraduate student loans.

Why in the world do Senate Democrats want to waste a week on a political stunt? We thought we ended that with the student loan bill last year. We have veterans standing in lines at clinics, we have appropriations bills waiting to be considered that deal with cancer research and national defense, and Democrats say: No, let's put that aside. Let's have a political stunt on higher education even though we know it is not going anywhere. We know it is not going anywhere.

I am very disappointed by this.

The $1-a-day taxpayer subsidy to help some former students with loans pay off a $27,000 debt is an example of how Democrats hope to get some votes. I thought we put that behind us. This is one reason the American people lose confidence in the Senate.

This body is described in a book called ''The American Senate,'' written by the late Neil MacNeil and the former Historian of the Senate. It is described as the one piece of authentic genius in the American constitutional system. Why is that? Because there are 100 of us. We operate by unanimous consent. It is a place for extended debate on important issues until we reach consensus.

Our Founders were so wise because they thought they had a complicated country, but it was not nearly as complex as it is today. The only way to govern a complex country is through consensus, just as we did last year on new student loans.

I would like to see the Senate move back to the place it was a few years ago. It was not that long ago. Many of the Members of the Senate don't know about it because so many Members are new. Did you know that half of the Members of the Senate have been here one term or less? They have not really seen the Senate operate the way it is supposed to operate.

The Republican leader said that if Republicans were in charge of the Senate, he would like to operate it the way a former Democratic leader did, Senator Mike Mansfield, which is, No. 1, let bills go through committee the way we do in our education committee, and No. 2, bring them to the floor for a robust debate. Let people put up their ideas. The idea is that the majority has the right to set the agenda and the minority has the right to offer amendments. In the Senate, the idea is to have an extended discussion until a consensus is reached, if you can.

I remember Senator Byrd and Senator Baker—I was here as an aide then, not as a Senator—would say to a chairman or a ranking member: Bring me a bill. Today, they would say to Chairman HARKIN: Bring me the fix No Child Left Behind bill, if you have the Ranking Members' support. I would say in this case: The bill doesn't have my support, but I support taking it to the floor. I will stand there, he will stand there and we will open it to debate and Republicans will try to amend it. We may win, we may lose, but then we will send it to the House. Then we have a conference and the bill comes back and we come to a consensus. How could we get all that done? The majority leader could stand up on Monday and say: We are going to fix No Child Left Behind this week, and we are going to finish by Saturday, or we are going to finish by 1 week from Saturday. Members may offer all the amendments they want, but they are going to be here Saturday and Sunday. So pretty soon, by about Thursday, many Senators would say: I have a grandchild's soccer game and I might want to go home and it regulates that way.

It is never perfect. This is a place where we debate big issues, but the idea that Senators can't offer amendments on important issues is making this Senate into a trivial place instead of a place where it is an authentic piece of genius.

The Senator from Wyoming, Mr. BARRASSO, did some interesting research. He pointed out that since July, there have only been nine amendments offered by Republicans that received a rollcall vote—nine amendments offered by Republicans since last July that received a rollcall vote. In Tennessee they would say that is akin to being in the Grand Ole Opry and not being allowed to sing. We are supposed to have a say about student loans, about Iran, about Ukraine, and about all of these issues. We might win or lose, but on behalf of our constituents, we are supposed to have a say.

That is not nearly as bad as what the Senator from Wyoming discovered when he did a little more research, and this is what he found: While Senate Republicans have had nine amendments since last July, guess how many amendments Senate Democrats have had—seven. According to the Senator from Wyoming, 676 amendments, and the majority leader has allowed 7 rollcall votes since last July. How do we explain that when we go home?

How do we explain a political stunt on student loans that everybody knows is a political stunt that will not pass? How do we explain to veterans standing in lines at clinics and to Appropriations Committee members waiting to deal with bills to fund cancer research and national defense that a political stunt is more important? This is not the way the Senate is supposed to operate.

Let's go back to this $1-a-day stunt. It is unfair to students, it is unfair to taxpayers, and it is unfair to future generations.

It is unfair to students because it treats former students better than it treats current students and new students. This proposal—the Senate Democrats' proposal that is being brought to the floor this week—doesn't do a single thing for a student if he or she is a current student or if they are going to be a student next year or the following year. It just helps some former students with old loans, and it treats them better than it would treat a new student because it will freeze in place an interest rate that 3 years from

now will treat former students with old loans better than new students whose rate will be determined by the market and that rate might be a little higher.

The Senate Democratic proposal is unfair to taxpayers for two reasons. First, it increases individual income taxes by $72 billion. That is a big number. It has been rejected by the Senate eight times. It is a class warfare tax focused on a few people.

Second, my colleagues may have heard that the government profits off of students under the student loan program. In fact, the reverse is true. When we use the accounting system the Congressional Budget Office says we ought to use, the student loan program actually costs taxpayers $88 billion over the next 10 years. Let me repeat that. We will hear it said by the advocates of the $1-a-day subsidy to help students pay off student loans that the government is profiting from the students but not if we use the accounting system the Congressional Budget Office has said we should use. What is the difference? The Congressional Budget Office says the system we are using doesn't take into account the risk that students might not pay back their loans. Today the Congressional Budget Office estimates that less than 10 percent of student loan volume is in default.

This proper accounting system is not foreign to the Senate. It was used with the Troubled Asset Relief Program—the so-called bailout—because the idea of assessing the true cost of the program needed to fully account for risk.

The Congressional Budget Office recommends that we use fair value accounting. They consider that a better methodology. They say the student loan program, as it exists under that accounting system, will cost taxpayers $88 billion over the next 10 years. As I said, the main reason is that the fair value system takes into account risk—the risk that students might not pay off some of their loans.

For those who might not know about the Congressional Budget Office, we pay this group to tell us the truth. They are nonpartisan. They don't always tell us what we want to hear, and we usually try to ignore it when they don't and say, well, we heard a different point of view. But here is what they said " . . . under the fair-value approach, estimates are based on market values—market prices when those prices are available or approximations of market prices when directly comparable figures are unavailable—which more fully account for the cost of the risk the government takes on. In particular, the fair-value approach accounts for the cost of the market risk," which the other accounting method we currently use does not.

The Congressional Budget Office continues in a May 2014 report:

> The government is exposed to market risk when the economy is weak because borrowers default on their debt obligations more frequently and recoveries from borrowers are lower.

That makes sense.

> When the government extends credit, the associated market risk of those obligations is effectively passed along to taxpayers, who, as investors, would view that risk as having a cost. Therefore, the fair-value approach offers a much more comprehensive estimate of Federal costs.

Last year, when the President worked in a bipartisan way with Senators and with the Republican House, we came to a conclusion that didn't raise taxes, that didn't raise the debt, and that still cut rates nearly in half for undergraduates.

Finally, the Senate Democratic proposal is unfair to future generations because it could add as much as $420 billion to an already out-of-control national debt. It does this by allowing private loans to be turned into public loans—private debt becomes the government's debt. Recently, as I said, the Congressional Budget Office warned that interest on the debt in the next 10 years will rise from $227 billion to $876 billion, an amount greater than the entire cost of our Nation's national defense.

So this $1-a-day subsidy does not justify this unfairness to other students, to taxpayers, and to future generations.

Let me conclude by talking about the real problem and the real solutions with student loans. Today the President held a press conference in which he proposed issuing a regulation by Executive order that would extend an income based repayment plan to millions more students. We have some questions about this. We don't know what it will cost and apparently neither does he. We know it doesn't take effect for another year or so because it will take some time to figure it out. I have had a hard time figuring out, reading the law, where the President has the authority to do this. It is based upon the health care law in 2010 which included provisions about student loans and included an income based repayment plan that affects loans issued after July 1, 2014. But the President, both with the Executive order today and his 2011 Executive order on the same subject, includes loans issued before July 1, 2014. So we don't know the cost and it has questionable authority.

So here we have a press conference at the White House and a political stunt on the Senate floor dealing with loans. We know better than that. The President knows he could sit down with those of us in the Senate who are working on student loans—and in the House—and say: Here, I have some ideas about income based repayment. We would say: Mr. President, No. 1, we respect what you did last year and would like to work with you again; and, No. 2, you are on the right subject.

There are two big problems—real problems—with student loans. One is the complexity of the income based repayment plans. The truth is the Obama administration itself is guilty of causing most of the complexity because the first income based repayment plan was created by law in 2007 and then it was amended in 2010 and then the President issued a regulation expanding the program in 2011 and now there is another regulation to do the same. Basically, it started out that if a student has a student loan to pay back but they are not making much money, then they don't have to pay more than 15 percent of their discretionary income. That is not even total income; it is just part of a person's income. If they can't pay it off over 25 years, the government will forgive it. What the bill did in 2010 was lower the amount to 10 percent of income for borrowers, and if the loan isn't paid off in 20 years, the government will forgive it. Income based repayment plans are available today for students.

Let's talk about what is already on the books, even if the President's Order today doesn't go into effect for students. For students who want lower monthly payments on their student loans, there are already provisions in Federal law that allow the typical undergraduate borrower to lower his or her payment by $60 more per month than the $1-a-day plan from Senate Democrats. For the typical graduate student, the existing repayment plans could lower monthly payments by $300 a month more than the Senate Democratic plan. Under current law, as I said, if the loan isn't paid off in 20 or 25 years, the government forgives it.

So here is what we have in America today. There are $100 billion in student loans every year, $33 billion in Federal grants, all going out to students at a very low rate. Most of the students don't have any credit history, and they don't need it to get the money.

We hear a lot of talk about the expense of a college education, and at some colleges it is very expensive. When I went to school, I had two or three jobs and a couple of scholarships. That is how I was able to go to Vanderbilt University. But for students today who want a less expensive college education, it is important for them to know that the average cost of tuition and fees at a 2-year public college—and there are some excellent ones all over our country—is $3,200. The average cost of tuition and fees at a public 4-year institution—and some of the best 4-year institutions in America are public 4-year institutions, including California, Tennessee, Hawaii, and Washington State; these are very good universities—is $8,900. Three out of four college students go to 2-year public colleges where the tuition and fees is $3,200 or to a 4-year public college where tuition and fees is just under $9,000.

In addition, 40 percent of those same students—the three out of four who go to public colleges and universities—40 percent of them have a grant which they don't have to pay back. It is called a Pell grant, and it may be as much as $5,645. So the truth is that for millions of college students going to

college today, it is free. Do the math. If a community college is $3,200 and a student gets a $5,645 Pell grant, that student has some extra money, and he or she can still get a loan if they want to and then they have even more extra money.

That leads to the other real problem with student loans that we would like to work with the President on; that is, over borrowing. The first real problem is the complexity of the income based repayment plans, and we can change that. Just as we did last year with many of the new loans, we could make the income based repayment plans, working together, much simpler and make it easier for students to take advantage of.

But what about overborrowing? We read in the paper about huge student loan debt. It seems as though everybody we read about has a $300,000 loan or a $150,000 loan they will never be able to pay back. I guess a few people do. But according to Mark Kantrowitz, who is a financial aid expert and has studied student debt, more than 90 percent of students who graduate with loans of more than $100,000 are graduate students. Let me say that again. If you read about a student loan that is more than $100,000, more than 90 percent of those are for graduate students.

I said a moment ago that undergraduate students can earn more than $1 million more in their lifetime with their 4-year degree. Doctors, lawyers, and other graduate students can earn a lot more than that with their advanced degrees in many cases.

But those graduate students with more-than-$100,000 loans are only 6 percent of all graduate students, and that is only 2 percent of all student loans. So 2 percent of all federal student loans in the country are more than $100,000. The average undergraduate loan for a 4-year degree is $27,000, and the average for all undergraduate loans, which are 85 percent of loans, is $21,000.

There is some overborrowing even among undergraduates. Young people are—and maybe they are not all young—borrowing more than they can afford to pay back. In our committee, we are considering a number of proposals to deal with this for both graduate and undergraduate loans.

For example, we would like to simplify the student loan program so more students can take advantage of it and take advantage of the repayment options that exist in the law today. But we need to know how much that costs the taxpayers.

No. 2, we have been talking about eliminating the graduate PLUS Program that provides virtually unlimited loans to graduate students regardless of their credit history. That may be how they took out these loans we occasionally read about of $150,000, $200,000. We want to prohibit part-time students from taking out the same amount of loans that full-time students can. Let's say you are taking a half-time load at a 4-year institution and you take out a full-time loan to pay for that. That means you have some extra money for living expenses or for a car. I am not sure as a matter of national policy that money for expenses other than for education and costs associated with education should be allowed.

We would like to give colleges and universities the ability to require additional counseling for students. Did you know that under current law a college is prohibited from requiring additional counseling to an entering student at Vanderbilt or the University of Tennessee who says: Give me my loan. I am entitled to it? I am 18 or 19 years old. I have no credit history, maybe not much experience with money, and the college that hands me the money is prohibited—by federal law—from requiring additional counseling.

We may want to limit the amount a student can borrow. We may want to allow colleges to have a role in doing that. We may even—and this has been suggested—require higher education institutions in some instances to have skin in the game to ensure that graduate students and undergraduate students repay their loans. In other words, the higher education institution would share the risk. These are some of the ideas that are being considered today in the Senate education committee.

Every Senator has a right to bring on this floor whatever she or he wants. It is up to the majority leader to decide what we focus our precious time on. I am here today to suggest that a $1-a-day subsidy for college graduates to help them pay off a $27,000 loan—which is the average loan for a 4-year college graduate, which is almost exactly the same as the average car loan—is not a worthy subject for our discussion this week when we have veterans standing in lines at clinics and appropriations bills dealing with cancer, and national military defense waiting to come to the floor.

That is especially true when we have a President of the United States who has proved he can work with Congress on student debt. He did that last year. He did a good job. He was very helpful with the final result. The Republicans in the House said that, the Senate said that in a bipartisan way, and I think most students who are enjoying the benefit of that would agree with that.

So we thought last year we had stopped the political stunts on student loans. We put a market price system on all new loans, at no new cost to the taxpayers, no new debt, so this would not become an election-year football; but apparently it has, at least for a week. So we are going to have to endure going on to the floor and talking about a proposal that every single Senator knows has no chance not only of getting to the House, which will not touch it, but even passing the Senate—no chance whatsoever. Why? Because over in the Senate education committee we are discussing this subject in a bipartisan way and the way we are supposed to do it.

So if it comes to the floor we are ready to amend it. We have our proposals for more good jobs. College graduates do not need a $1-a-day subsidy to help pay off a $27,000 loan. They need a good, decent job, and we are ready to help them get one. With the Keystone Pipeline, with the trade authority the President wants, with lower taxes, with changes in ObamaCare, with going from a 30- to a 40-hour workweek, we have a lot of ideas about jobs. If we want to bring up taxes, which this proposal does, we have some taxes we would like to bring up as well; and that includes repealing the medical device tax, which ought to have a good, bipartisan vote here in the Senate. It has before.

On education, we have our ideas too, and so do the Democrats, by the way. Some have been through the HELP committee. They have been hashed out. They are ready for the floor. There is a competing vision. Democrats want a national school board. Republicans want to reverse the trend towards a national school board. So on this bill, if we want to talk about education, I would like to have a chance to offer my amendment that says no national school board. Let's send those decisions back to State and local communities. I think there are lots of Senators on both sides of the aisle who would like to vote for that.

But what I would really like to see is the President accept our invitation to work with him. That is what we would like to do. We did that last year. We produced a good result. He has put his focus in the right place. I might say respectfully, maybe he is in the right church but the wrong pew. He is talking about income based repayment plans. We think that is one of the big problems left to solve, and we will work with him to simplify and reform the various plans. But we want to make sure the government has clear legislative authority to do it, and we want to know what it costs. Then we would like to work with him on excessive overborrowing. I would suspect he would like to do that too.

So why don't we do that? Why don't we send this $1-a-day proposal back to the Senate education committee—actually it never was there—but let's send it to the Senate education committee and put it in with all the other ideas we are discussing. Let's continue our bipartisan work in the committee to see if we can this year present to the Senate a proposal for reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, and let's use this time for the veterans standing in line or the appropriations bills, which deal with so many issues and which we have not had a chance to consider for the last few years.

I am disappointed with today's press conference at the White House and the political stunt that is headed toward the Senate floor. But I am hoping the President will take a look at what he did last year and feel a good deal of satisfaction about it and say: Let me

sit down with those same men and women whom I worked with last year and see if we cannot do something about simplifying income based repayment so more students can take advantage of it, and dealing with excessive borrowing and some of the other issues we are working on in higher education.

I think we can do that 2 years in a row, and I think the American people would appreciate it if we tried.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CHESTER NEZ

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, it is an honor to join my colleague from New Mexico, Senator TOM UDALL, in celebrating the life and service of Chester Nez, the last of the original 29 Navajo code talkers, who passed away this last Wednesday, and to honor the historic role the Native American code talkers played in the allied victory in World War II.

Our Nation's liberties and patriotic spirit were personified by the commitment and service and the legacy of Chester Nez. He was a true American hero. Chester Nez helped to create an unbreakable code during World War II. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps to protect the Nation and also his people, language, and culture. He understood the significance and the importance of his language, and he used it as a shield to defend this Nation.

Chester Nez chose to enlist in the marines at a young age, not knowing he would become part of an elite group of indigenous code talkers. Despite growing up in an era where speaking the Navajo language was not only prohibited but often punished, his fluency in both Navajo and English made him invaluable to the war effort. He was a member of the all-Navajo 382nd Marine Platoon entrusted to create a code that would prove impenetrable to the Japanese. The 382nd Marine Platoon literally changed the course of history.

After Chester Nez's service, he continued to remain silent about his instrumental role as a Navajo code talker, maintaining a quiet, modest, and humble lifestyle until the mission was declassified in 1968.

Later in life Mr. Nez shared his contributions and his experiences in World War II with younger generations. He advocated for keeping the Navajo language, its traditions, and culture alive so that future generations would know how influential the Navajo people and language were during World War II.

Thanks to Mr. Nez and his fellow code talkers, our Nation's remarkable spirit continues to thrive and we are forever grateful for their service. I join all New Mexicans in keeping Chester Nez's family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

KADZIK NOMINATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak about the nomination of Peter Kadzik to be an Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs in the Justice Department. I happen to know that the majority leader hasn't yet filed cloture on this nomination, but I expect that he will in the near future. So now I take the opportunity to speak about that nomination.

It is no secret that I have concerns about Mr. Kadzik's nomination. I opposed his nomination in committee, and I will oppose it when it comes to a vote on the floor.

The reasons are pretty simple. Mr. Kadzik has been acting in that position since April 2013—in other words, in the very same position for which he has been nominated. His job is to respond to questions from Members of Congress. We have a clear track record to judge his performance, and that record has been dismal. Letters go unanswered for months. Then, when answers come, they ignore or dodge the questions.

Even before coming to the Justice Department, Mr. Kadzik had shown a lack of respect for congressional oversight. While he was in private practice, he represented the billionaire tax fugitive Marc Rich. Rich was infamously pardoned at the end of the Clinton administration following a large donation by Mrs. Rich to the Clinton Presidential Library. No fugitive has ever been pardoned before—let alone a billionaire fugitive who owed millions of unpaid taxes.

In the course of the congressional investigation into that controversy, Mr. Kadzik was subpoenaed to testify at the House hearing in 2001. He refused the committee's invitation to testify voluntarily. Then, he decided to fly to California the day before the hearing. The House committee had to send the U.S. marshals to serve him with a subpoena in California ordering him to return for the hearing. He later denied that his attorneys knew a subpoena was on the way when he got on the plane. But his denial is contradicted by handwritten notes from 2001 telephone conversations with his attorneys about the subpoena. Those notes are in the record of his confirmation hearings, and I invite any Senator to review them.

Some people might say: Well, that was a long time ago, and maybe it was just a misunderstanding.

But one thing is not in dispute even by Mr. Kadzik: He refused the House committee's request to testify voluntarily. He was unwilling to cooperate unless forced to do so by compulsory legal process. Everything in his record since then has reinforced the impression that Mr. Kadzik is simply not interested in answering questions from Congress unless he has no other choice.

He was not forthcoming during his nomination hearing on several issues, not just the Marc Rich controversy. Getting him to answer simple inquiries has required two or even three sets of questions. He wouldn't even promise to answer each individual question from members of our Judiciary Committee. Instead, he had a bad habit of grouping together a set of specific detailed questions, and then repeating one vague nonanswer over and over. In one set of responses he repeated word for word the same answer to previous questions nine times. That simply is not a good-faith effort to be responsive to each question.

When his answer was one he thought I didn't want to hear, he glossed over it. Example: At his nomination hearing, I asked Mr. Kadzik whether he intended to provide certain documents Chairman ISSA and I had requested relating to a briefing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. After he failed to mention the documents in his response, I prompted him about the documents once again and he evaded the question. Only after two subsequent sets of questions for the record did Mr. Kadzik finally come clean and admit that the Department would refuse to provide those documents requested. Mr. Kadzik should have been that candid initially, instead of avoiding the issue.

His seeming inability to give straightforward and accurate answers to simple questions causes real concern for me about his ability to perform his job, of which a very important part is answering inquiries from Members of Congress. I think an Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs needs to ensure that Congress receives accurate information from the Department. That is what checks and balances of our constitutional setup is all about.

This also became a problem for Mr. Kadzik's predecessor, whose false denials about Operation Fast and Furious eventually had to be retracted. This office needs leadership that will restore its credibility. Mr. Kadzik's track record in the acting position makes it clear he does not have what it takes to restore sorely needed credibility. At Mr. Kadzik's confirmation hearing last October, Senator FEINSTEIN told Mr. Kadzik that the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence had recently received answers to questions for the record from the FBI that were over 1 year late. As she pointed out to Mr. Kadzik, ''A year is really outside the pale of propriety.''

Mr. Kadzik said in response: ''One of my missions at the Department is to improve that record and to expedite the providing of information to this Committee and all Members of Congress.'' But from what I have seen so far, Mr. Kadzik's record has been even worse than his predecessor's.

The Judiciary Committee still has not received answers to questions for the record from Attorney General Holder from an oversight hearing dating back to March 6, 2013, 14 months ago. Recently, the Judiciary Committee received answers to FBI questions for the record dated ''current as of August 26, 2013.'' According to the FBI Congressional Affairs staff, that is when the answers were forwarded to Mr. Kadzik's office. Although the FBI responses to Congress were then only 2 months old, apparently they sat in Mr. Kadzik's Office of Legislative Affairs for another 9 months.

Mr. Kadzik is just as unresponsive to letters. His staff recently acknowledged they were aware of 13 pending letters from this Senator that have gone completely unanswered. I don't mean he replied with an answer I didn't think was good enough; I mean there was simply no reply whatsoever. Some of those questions from this Senator dated back to October 2012, well over a year and a half ago. His office is completely ignoring those letters.

He did send me a couple of very weak responses in just the last few days. Each of those was essentially one paragraph long. One was a reply to a letter I sent almost 1 year ago. The other replied to a letter from January in which I asked four simple questions. They addressed Attorney General Holder's failure to issue a report on the need for reform of the FBI's whistleblower procedures.

The Attorney General was required to report to President Obama within 180 days of the Presidential directive on whistleblowers, which was issued October 2012. A little history: The FBI was exempted from whistleblower provisions in the Civil Service Act of 1978 and the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989. That has resulted in the FBI being one of the worst retaliators against whistleblowers over the years. Therefore, the FBI report President Obama requested was an important part of the Presidential directive. I had written to the Justice Department 3 weeks after the Presidential directive in 2012 to emphasize how important it was that the directive be followed and that the FBI people have proper whistleblower protection. Then there was a 180-day deadline. That deadline came and went.

I wrote the Justice Department earlier this year asking about the report because at that time it was more than 10 months overdue. I asked the current status of the report, why they had failed to issue it so far, when it would be complete, and whether they would provide a copy to the Judiciary Committee.

So those are the simple questions I asked Mr. Kadzik. Once again, the nominee failed to send a prompt, good-faith response to my letter. Mr. Kadzik could have written immediately to say the Justice Department knows this review is important and explain why it was taking longer than they thought. Mr. Kadzik could have told me the review was expected to take several more months. Instead he waited 4 long months until the report was complete, then simply sent me a one-paragraph response, stating the report was sent to the President of the United States. He didn't try to explain why it took so long. He completely ignored my question about providing a copy of the report to our Judiciary Committee. This is not the kind of good-faith, candid response the Justice Department owes Congress, especially in our oversight capacity to see that the laws are faithfully executed by the President of the United States.

As a nominee who already works in that office, Mr. Kadzik had the opportunity to demonstrate a real commitment to the role of congressional oversight in our constitutional system of checks and balances. He could have answered the mail on time. He could have insisted on candid, good-faith, substantive replies to Congress. Rather than trying to raise the bar, he lowered it.

The attitude this nominee brings to dealing with congressional oversight and the requests we make is a symptom of much larger problems. The Justice Department has a lot of work to do to rebuild trust and confidence after the false letter it sent me on Operation Fast and Furious. It still is fighting in court to avoid turning over documents that explain its decision to ultimately withdraw the letter and admit that letter was false.

The Obama administration is arguing for a vastly expanded view of executive privilege. They want the ability to expand it far beyond direct advice a counselor would give to the President. They want it to include internal emails between lower level bureaucrats and agencies and departments. These, the administration claims, are so-called deliberative documents. They are created by people who may never even have been to the White House, let alone advise the President on anything where lawyer-client relationship can be established. That kind of broad privilege would be a massive blow to government transparency and to our system of checks and balances.

The position the Obama administration is taking in the Operation Fast and Furious lawsuit is a direct breach of the promise the President made in his first day in office. He pledged at that time to have the most transparent administration in the history of this country, but now the President's Justice Department is arguing for a massive expansion of executive privilege to include all of that so-called deliberative material. This nominee, Mr. Kadzik, is aggressively implementing that new policy even today, refusing to answer questions and withholding documents. His actions today are consistent with his history. Voluntary cooperation takes a backseat to legalism and forcing a legal confrontation.

I wish I could say Mr. Kadzik had demonstrated the kind of serious commitment to open, honest, and forthright cooperation with congressional oversight that the office needs. Unfortunately, he has not, but the failure to cooperate extends far beyond Mr. Kadzik's investigations.

We don't need to look any further than today's headlines to see the latest instance of this administration's failure to abide by its obligations under the law to submit to congressional oversight. Of course I am referring to the recent release of five of the most dangerous detainees from Guantanamo. The President's decision to release what some have called the Taliban dream team without notifying Congress in advance exemplifies this administration's contempt for congressional oversight. It is troubling for a host of reasons, especially when the stakes are so high.

In December 2013, Congress passed and the President signed the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Section 1035 of that law addresses the procedure the executive branch is required to follow if the President decides to release a detainee being held at Guantanamo Bay. This process isn't optional. It is not something that is a matter of Presidential discretion. It is actually required as a matter of federal law. It is required by a law this President signed.

The White House's failure to follow the law in this instance is just the latest example of this administration's blatant disregard for congressional authority. The law requires the President to notify certain House and Senate committees, including the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, at least 30 days before Guantanamo Bay detainees are transferred or released. Obviously that did not happen.

Not only that but the law requires the President to explain ''why the transfer or release is in the national security interest of the United States.'' That didn't happen either. The President also had a legal obligation to describe any actions his administration took ''to mitigate the risks of reengagement by the individuals to be transferred or released.'' Such mitigating actions are required by the law, but that didn't happen either.

The reasons for these legal requirements are fairly obvious. The Members of this body understand and respect the President's responsibility to protect national security. That is in fact his paramount responsibility as Commander in Chief, but we too have a responsibility in this Congress and all Congresses to ensure that the national security is protected. Congress is a coequal branch of government. Yet our ability to ensure that the actions this President takes are designed to promote the national security have been thwarted because this White House kept us in the dark about the release of the five Taliban kingpins every step of the way.

The administration is fully aware it violated Federal law in failing to timely notify Congress of its intentions. We know this because the White House has contacted some of my colleagues on the Select Committee on Intelligence and apologized—actually apologized—for failing to notify them in advance; in other words, apologized for not following the law.

According to press reports the White House said the failure to make notification required by law was ''an oversight.'' An oversight? What happened is not an oversight. An oversight is what happens when you forget to send a thank-you note for a birthday gift. This was not an oversight. In other words, it is extremely difficult to view this as anything but a deliberate attempt to leave Senators in the dark. You don't simply forget to meet your legal obligations to notify Congress, and it is not as if this was some obscure provision of the law nobody knew anything about. This has always been a very big deal. Not only did the White House have an obligation to notify Congress, but the White House had previously promised that it would in fact comply with the law.

On June 21, 2013, at the White House press briefing, Press Secretary Jay Carney promised that the administration ''would not make any decision about the transfers of any detainees without consulting with Congress and without doing so in accordance with U.S. law.''

It is perfectly clear the administration was aware of its duties under the law and made a calculated and deliberate decision to ignore them. The President more or less admitted this when he recently explained at a press conference in Poland that he saw an opportunity he had to take immediately because ''we were concerned about Sgt. Bergdahl's health.''

I am sick and tired of the approach this administration takes toward its legal obligations under the law, and that is why I wrote to the Attorney General in January of this year concerning some statements the President made in the State of the Union Address, hinting that he intended to take unilateral action using executive orders.

In the letter I wrote to the Attorney General, I asked him to direct the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel to publicly disclose its opinions and conclusions concerning the lawfulness of executive orders issued by the President.

Here is where Mr. Kadzik comes in. In May he declined my request, citing again his overbroad and legally unsupportable claims of executive privilege.

It is not without good reason that the former executive editor of the New York Times—by the way, an outlet that is not exactly an aggressive critic of the President—called this White House the most secretive she ever covered.

So let me renew my request to the Attorney General regarding the publication of opinions from the Office of Legal Counsel. Frankly, I think my request is all the more important now that we have seen the administration's flagrant disregard for Federal law in the matter of the Taliban prisoner deal. I am, therefore, asking the Attorney General to direct the Office of Legal Counsel to make public any opinions or legal analysis concerning the lawfulness of the transfer of the Taliban commanders without compliance with section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization. But given this Department's track record, I am not going to hold my breath that that request will be honored.

I will sum up by saying this: Mr. Kadzik's nomination is a perfect example of the contempt that this—the self-professed most transparent administration in history—has for congressional oversight authority.

Let me be clear to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. One day you folks might be in the minority or the administration might be controlled by the Republican Party. If a Republican administration ignores your oversight request, how can you complain, if you don't stand up today, when the shoe was on the other foot? If you support this kind of stonewalling now by supporting this nominee, it will come back to bite you, and, of course, you will deserve it. I plan to be around here to remind you of that.

I will vote against this nominee and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, last week, the Senate confirmed Sylvia Burwell as our new Secretary of Health and Human Services. She is now the administration's main implementer and representative of ObamaCare. She is its new face and will be its primary salesperson to the American people. I think the President made a competent choice, and I supported her confirmation. But I would be remiss if I did not mention or bring to light the difficult job she has ahead of her.

From its botched website to ever increasing premiums, to canceled health insurance plans, ObamaCare has been and remains a complicated mess of broken promises and confusing implementation. I was back home in Indiana last weekend and the weekend before that, and ObamaCare, along with complaints about overregulation, remain the top two issues on people's minds. On Friday, I was in DeKalb County and Noble County up in northeast Indiana meeting with representatives of those two counties and communities and across the spectrum of people engaged in various business enterprises—housewives, small businesses, big businesses, elected officials, et cetera. In each of those discussions, as I went across those two counties, as I said, overregulation and ObamaCare were No. 1 and No. 2, or vice versa, on everyone's mind. It continues to remain on their minds because they see this as a very complicated and messy intrusion into their individual lives in terms of their ability to run their businesses. For many, it is not a question of ObamaCare not hurting them, but how it has hurt them and their concerns about how it is going to hurt them in the future.

The President promised us that this plan—quote ''will lower the cost of health care for our families, our businesses, and our government.'' Let me repeat that. The President said that ObamaCare would lower the cost of health care—which it hasn't—for our families, our businesses, and our government.

That is not what I have heard as I talk to people across the State of Indiana. What I hear from Hoosiers is their premiums have increased, they have higher health care costs, their deductibles have risen dramatically, their copays have risen, and they have fewer provider options. Remember what the President said: If like your doctor or your health plan, you can keep it, period. That is not the case, and I hear that from hundreds of Hoosiers as I travel around the State.

Let me speak about a specific story from a constituent, Jeremy, from Randolph County, who said this:

> My plan for my wife and two kids, ages 2 and 5, just increased $150 to $615 per month. We cannot afford this massive hike!

He went on to say: Something must be done to lower these plans because we are seriously going to think about not being able to have insurance for the first time since college because I simply can't afford it. It is unaffordable.

The ACA, the so-called Affordable Care Act, has been called unaffordable by so many Hoosiers—and I suspect that is true all around the country—that it ought to be the unaffordable care act and not the Affordable Care Act.

I don't know how many stories we have to bring to the floor of the Senate before my colleagues understand and realize this plan is faulty to the point that it needs to be replaced. It is deeply and fatally flawed at its very core.

I know the majority leader came to the floor and said none of these stories we have related are true. That is like telling Jeremy he doesn't exist.

I don't think he made this up: My plan for my wife and kids has just increased $150 a month to $615 a month. It is unaffordable. Americans across the country are repeating these stories. They are not made up. It is not something Republicans sits around and

write in the back room and sends out that says: Here, say this, so we can repeat it on the floor of the House of Representatives or the Senate floor. These are concerned citizens sending by the thousands emails, phone calls, tweets, and any other means of communication. They are speaking to us directly when we go back home, whether I am in the grocery store buying a quart of milk, picking up a newspaper at the gas station, just speaking to people on the street, or when I sit down with business people. We have invited them to various small towns in Indiana. As I said, these stories that are coming from real people I represent—and they sent me here to represent them—is the impact of the health care plan that has been proposed by the President and now is being implemented. So all of the promises that were made early on—but it wasn't in force—have now been proven to be untrue.

Don't just take my word for it. Look at the headlines. Reuters, which I don't think is an arm of the Republican Senatorial Committee or the Republican National Committee, and is an independent newspaper says: ''U.S. says 2.2 million ObamaCare enrollees have data problems.''

CNBC—the last time I heard they weren't making contributions to the Republican Party either: ''Seven in 10 people say ObamaCare had bad or zero impact on U.S.'' Either nothing—no impact or bad impact—that is 70 percent.

Indianapolis Business Journal, to which I pay attention, and an independent organization: ''Indiana's ObamaCare rates for 2015 all over the map.''

People can't figure out how much they are going to have to pay next year, but they have figured out one thing. It is going to be more than they paid last year.

Remember the statement ''premiums won't go up?'' It won't go up a penny?

I think many of us think it is time to start over and replace ObamaCare with real health care solutions. Republicans have offered a multitude of possibilities of suggestions and proposals, every one of which has been turned down by the President or not allowed to be brought to the floor by the Senate majority leader.

There are those who say: What would you do? Why don't you suggest something? We have tried our very best to bring forward packages of reforms, to reach across the aisle and say, if you will work with us, we will try to fix some of these problems. We think we should repeal it and start over because we don't think it is the right model for health care, to address the solution of providing people in this country with adequate health care at a reasonable cost.

So changing the face of ObamaCare by just putting in a new Secretary of Health and Human Services will not change this law's negative impact on Hoosiers such as Jeremy. I wish it would, but, obviously, it won't. It will not change this disaster of a law into what it should be: Better health care for all Americans. We are all committed to that goal, but we are simply saddled with a piece of legislation that was very poorly drafted, that was rushed through without any support or comments from those of us on the other side of the aisle.

I wasn't here at the time. One of the reasons I ran and came back was to try to address what I thought was legislation taking us down a road to a dysfunctional health care system, with less quality, less access, less choice, less competition.

Is there a need to reform this current health care system? Yes. Are there solutions that are better than what has been put before us? Yes. I wish we could summon the support and the will of those in this body to begin addressing that very problem.

Mr. President, I see other colleagues on the floor, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to raise an issue that has been of growing concern to the American people: the exchange of the so-called Taliban five—five terrorist detainees from Guantanamo—in exchange for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl.

Let me say from the outset, this is not about Sergeant Bergdahl. The circumstances under which he became a prisoner of the Taliban is an issue for the Army. There was an investigation into this matter in 2010, and hopefully the Army will be able to bring clarity to that situation soon. What I wish to speak about today is keeping the American people safe from the terrorists who attacked us on September 11, 2001, resulting in the deaths of 2,977 innocent people.

The Taliban five are among the worst of the worst. They were all high-level officials in the Taliban regime who gave aid and support to Al Qaeda in Afghanistan in the period leading up to the 9/11 attacks. These five were designated ''high'' risk by the Guantanamo Review Task Force convened in 2009 on the orders of President Obama, whose report was published on January 22, 2010. Two of the five are wanted by the United Nations for war crimes against Afghan civilians.

Khairullah Khairkhwa, for example, was described in his GTMO case file as ''a hard-liner in Taliban philosophy'' with ''close ties to Osama bin Laden.'' Mohammad Fazl was second in command of the Taliban army in 2001. These were not junior-level players.

Capturing these five men was a priority when our troops participated in the liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban in 2001, where our sons and daughters bled and died to free Afghanistan and to exact punishment on those who carried out a horrific terrorist attack on the United States of America. We cannot know for sure how many American soldiers paid the ultimate price to capture these five senior terrorists.

Even as many other detainees at GTMO have been released, up until now, these five have been considered too dangerous to let go. Given the level of threat they represent, any proposal to release them should be of the utmost seriousness. Unfortunately, by all indications the administration's release treated their threat as anything but serious.

Americans need to know how the Obama administration thinks it has made our Nation safer by negotiating with terrorists to release these five dangerous terrorist leaders. Until President Obama can make his case and convince the American public that this swap was in our national interests, prudence dictates that all further transfers and releases from Guantanamo Bay should be off the table.

Unfortunately, there have been no answers from this administration on how this deal furthers the national security interests of the American people or why the deal was so urgent that the administration refused to comply with its legal obligation to inform Congress 30 days before the transfer. Instead, the administration has vilified those who would raise questions about it as somehow not being concerned about securing the return of our troops. That attack—that slur—shouldn't even be dignified by a response, particularly given what has been publicly admitted.

President Obama has publicly admitted that there is ''absolutely'' a chance of the Taliban five returning to the battlefield and attacking Americans.

Indeed, the current Taliban leadership has announced that from their perspective this deal is so good for them that they should now prioritize kidnapping other Americans. For example, last Thursday one top Taliban commander told Time magazine—and this is a quote—''It's better to kidnap one person like Bergdahl than kidnapping hundreds of useless people. It has encouraged our people. Now everybody will work hard to capture such an important bird.''

This deal puts every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine—every man and woman standing up to defend this Nation—in jeopardy.

The chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, has publicly said that she has seen ''no evidence'' that Sergeant Bergdahl was under urgent threat in recent weeks or months.

All of these admissions together raise serious and legitimate concerns about the circumstances of the release of the Taliban Five, and they also make clear that the administration should stop

vilifying any who raise these national concerns. Instead, the President should stand up and honor his commitment to the American people, defend this decision in terms of the national security interests of the United States—what should be the highest priority for the Commander in Chief.

Instead, we have recently learned from news reports that there are at least four other Gitmo detainees who are being considered for release. So not only has there not been accountability as to why this happened, but it appears the administration wants to go down the same road and I can only assume is willing again to violate the law and not notify Congress the next time, just the way it violated the law by not notifying Congress this time.

Before any further such action is considered, we need to take a pause and assess what happened with the Taliban five. We need to answer:

Who did the vetting that resulted in the assessment that the Taliban five no longer posed a high level of threat to the United States?

Who participated in the decision to release them?

Was this the same deal the administration says they offered to brief Congress on previously or is it something different?

Was the President fully briefed on the background of the Taliban Five and the likelihood of recidivism?

How did the administration reach its apparently high level of confidence that the Taliban five will be secure in Qatar?

How did they arrive upon the notion that that security should last only 1 year, after which the American people will be safe if these terrorists are released altogether? On what basis did the administration judge that only 1 year was sufficient?

How was the decision made to ignore the law and bypass Congress, including bypassing the chairs of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, Foreign Relations Committees, and Armed Services Committees?

In what circumstances does the administration intend once again to openly defy the law and refuse to provide notification to Congress?

These are questions, I might note, that should be bipartisan concerns. This should not be a partisan affair—asking questions that affect the national security of every single American citizen and every single man and woman serving in the military.

In order to give the Obama administration the opportunity to satisfy the many outstanding questions the American people have about their safety—and I would note, having just returned from Texas, I found over and over again Texans, men and women, asking these very questions—I will propose this week that before we consider any additional releases from Guantanamo, we answer these questions first.

The legislation I will be filing, No. 1, will immediately call for a 6-month freeze on any Federal Government funding to transfer detainees from Guantanamo. No. 2, to enforce this requirement, the legislation will provide that, should the President choose to disregard this law—as, sadly, has been his pattern so many other times—all funds expended in the transfer would be deducted directly from the budget of the Executive Office of the President. No. 3, because we understand that conditions might possibly arise that would necessitate the release of an individual prisoner and out of respect for the President's special role in international matters, this legislation explicitly provides a means for the President to ask Congress for a waiver of the 6-month bar in an individual case. But, finally, because we believe the release of detainees from Guantanamo—which holds some of the most dangerous people on the planet—is a matter of the gravest import, this legislation would require that for every order for release of a Guantanamo detainee, it must be personally approved by the President. This would ensure that the fullest consideration and deliberation goes into the process.

This latest deal—which was announced to the American people as a fait accompli, with no opportunity for Congress to scrutinize it, no opportunity for the American people to assess it—this latest deal constituted negotiating with terrorists to release five senior terrorist leaders, and it raises obvious questions.

First of all, how many Americans did these five terrorist leaders directly or indirectly murder? How many lives—American lives—are they responsible for taking?

Second, how many American soldiers gave their lives to capture these five senior terrorist leaders? How many graves do we have of sons and daughters of Americans because they were sent in to capture these five who have just been released?

Third, given their release—and the President's admission that there is ''absolutely'' a chance that they will return to actively waging war against the United States—how many Americans are at risk of being killed directly or indirectly by these terrorist leaders we have just let go?

Finally, if the Taliban five do return to actively trying to kill Americans, how many American soldiers will once again have to risk their lives or, indeed, will give their lives trying to kill or capture these terrorists once again?

These are questions of the utmost seriousness, and to date the administration has not even attempted to answer them. Instead, it has suggested that anyone raising these questions is simply failing to stand by the men and women of our military. I can tell you, the men and women of our military understand the value of protecting the national security of the United States of America, and the men and women of our military are not comforted by negotiations with terrorists to release senior terrorist leaders who can once again begin actively waging war on the United States.

Every American is naturally eager to end the long war in Afghanistan, but that does not mean we disregard the threat that violent terrorist groups such as the Taliban pose to our Nation. We know from the hard experience of the last decade that at least one in three Guantanamo detainees has returned to the battlefield. That has been what history has taught us.

Until we have full confidence that this threat to American lives is being fully and properly assessed, that we are taking steps to protect the lives of American civilians and American soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines, it is only prudent to take the steps in the legislation I am introducing this week, and I hope the Senate will do so.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion that is at the desk. I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans.

Harry Reid, Ron Wyden, Elizabeth Warren, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Jeanne Shaheen, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez, Tammy Baldwin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have filed, I am sorry to say, another cloture motion to get on a bill. We have more student loan debt in America today than we have credit card debt. I just had a conference call with some students from the State of Nevada.

What is going on is really very unfortunate. Some of these students lamented the fact: You know, I am not sure I should be in school. I am borrowing money. Maybe I should do something else.

I do not know how many times we have had to file cloture for the opportunity to get on a bill, but that is where we are. So we will have a cloture vote to see if they will let us on the bill on Wednesday.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to ask the Senator, through the Chair, it is my understanding that he just filed a procedural motion which will allow us to take up a bill and debate a bill which would give an opportunity to some of the 44 million Americans currently paying college student loans. This bill, authored by Senator ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts, would allow students to refinance their college debt down to today's interest levels—3.8 percent, if I am not mistaken, for undergraduate loans—which would make paying back their loans easier and sooner, and we have to go through a procedure of waiting 2 days in the Senate to even start talking and debating on the bill. Is that what the Senator is telling us?

Mr. REID. Through the Chair to my dear friend, that is what I am saying.

What has happened around the country is not only in Nevada, it is all across the country, with rare exception. State legislatures don't support higher education.

If you take an organization such as the Board of Regents of the State of Nevada, and they have a lump sum of money the legislature gives them, they have to figure out a way to keep kids in school. So in Nevada last Thursday they raised the tuition of our universities by 17 percent. What will happen? They will borrow more money.

I told those young people when I started the conversation today, I worked hard but with a little scholarship here or there, I could work hard and put myself through school. I put myself through college and law school, and they can't do it now. There aren't enough hours in the day to pay for this tuition.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for another question through the Chair?

Mr. REID. I yield.

Mr. DURBIN. Procedurally, what the Senator had to do was file a motion so the Senate could actually start debate on this issue. There was a time in the Senate when you didn't have to have 60 votes to even start debating an issue. But is it my understanding, now that we are building up to a vote on Wednesday to see if five Republicans will cross the aisle and join us so we can have a debate the floor of the Senate on whether we can refinance college student loans, we have to wait 2 days?

Mr. REID. We, the Senate, and the American people have waited for months, because we have done this time and time again. We have had to file cloture on just getting on a bill.

The sad part about it, on many occasions on nominations—they also do the same on nominations; we have approximately 140 nominations held up—they vote for them. Bills they have supported, nominations they have supported, they still make us file cloture and waste the time of the American people. And I say months.

Mr. DURBIN. If I could ask one last question through the Chair.

So we need five Republican Senators to join Democratic Senators if we are even going to debate the bill about refinancing college student loans; is that my understanding?

Mr. REID. The Senator is right.

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. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAUCK NOMINATION

Mr. KAINE. I rise in support of one of the judicial nominees whom we will consider first by cloture vote in a few minutes and then a vote scheduled on confirmation tomorrow. It is the nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge M. Hannah Lauck to the Federal bench in the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Lauck is somebody whom I know quite well, because she serves as a magistrate in the Richmond division of the Eastern District where I live, and that is a court where I spent probably the majority of my 17-year legal practice.

She has come full circle. She is a native Virginian, went to college outside of Virginia but came back to the Commonwealth after graduating from Yale Law School. She began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge James Spencer, whose retirement has opened this position on the Federal bench. It is fitting as she was one of his first law clerks, and now she has the opportunity with this nomination to fill his shoes on the court.

Judge Lauck is very well prepared. She began, as I explained, as a judicial law clerk, which is a prestigious position, for a wonderful Federal judge, Judge James Spencer. She has included in her public career over the past 20-plus years both public service and private practice.

Before she joined the bench as a magistrate, Judge Lauck served as a corporate counsel for Genworth Financial, a Fortune 500 company, in Richmond. For 10 years before that she was assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, where she started in civil litigation, handling the entire spectrum of civil cases involving the United States as a party, and finished as a criminal prosecutor. Coupled with her service as a magistrate, this extensive experience in both private practice and work in the U.S. Attorney's Office makes her very familiar with the docket of this court.

She became a U.S. magistrate judge in 2005. I know the Presiding Officer practiced law and understands the important work Federal magistrates do. Her work has involved all Federal misdemeanors.

Magistrates in the Richmond division try Federal misdemeanors, and they also try complex civil matters fully with the consent of the parties. It is the practice in eastern Virginia for parties to often consent to magistrate judges trying their cases. She has since 2005, 9 years, acted as a judge in virtually the entire range of matters that this court handles, this Federal court.

Along the way, Hannah has distinguished herself as an excellent attorney and earned awards for her work, including various commendations from the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Marshals Service, the Virginia State Police, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and Genworth, her previous private sector employer. She was also named as a Virginia Leader in the Law for her work and service to the bench.

I am excited to be here on behalf of Judge Lauck. This is a vacancy on which both Senator WARNER and I have worked very hard. We first asked our local bar association, especially the Virginia State Bar, to conduct interviews and then make recommendations to us. We did that first, and then all the candidates were interviewed by us. We are proud to recommend her to the President and thankful that the President nominated her for the position.

In closing, I will say this is a court that I am very close to. My wife clerked for a Federal judge on this court when she started her legal career, just as Judge Lauck started her legal career in the same way. I served as a civil litigator for 17 years with a Richmond firm directly across the street from the courthouse and spent a lot of time there.

I know—the Presiding Officer reminded me; thank you for doing it—that the Presiding Officer's father was the first Federal magistrate in Virginia in this same court, the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria division.

So the Presiding Officer knows well the work magistrates do. I have stayed very close to this court since I tried my last case in 2001. I know the judges, I know the court personnel, I know the lawyers, and I know many of the parties, and they speak with uniform plaudits in regard to the work Judge Lauck has done as a magistrate.

There is no better person for this seat being vacated than Judge Lauck to have the full article III power that will come if she is confirmed. I am very happy to recommend her to all my colleagues. She will be an excellent judge to serve on that court.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF M. HANNAH LAUCK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

NOMINATION OF LEO T. SOROKIN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NOMINATION OF RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE II TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 176 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hagan	Pryor
Bennet	Harkin	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Stabenow
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Chambliss	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Walsh
Coons	Markey	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—32

Alexander	Cruz	McConnell
Ayotte	Enzi	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Rubio
Boozman	Grassley	Scott
Burr	Hatch	Sessions
Coats	Heller	Shelby
Coburn	Hoeven	Thune
Corker	Inhofe	Toomey
Cornyn	Johanns	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Landrieu	Risch
Cochran	McCain	Roberts
Graham	McCaskill	Schatz
Isakson	Moran	Vitter
Johnson (WI)	Murkowski	
Kirk	Murphy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 32. The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next two votes be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 177 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Ayotte	Hagan	Pryor
Baldwin	Harkin	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Reid
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Casey	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Walsh
Coons	Markey	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—33

Alexander	Chambliss	Crapo
Barrasso	Coats	Cruz
Blunt	Coburn	Enzi
Boozman	Corker	Fischer
Burr	Cornyn	Flake

Grassley	Lee	Scott
Hatch	McCain	Sessions
Heller	McConnell	Shelby
Hoeven	Paul	Thune
Inhofe	Portman	Toomey
Johanns	Rubio	Wicker

NOT VOTING—15

Begich	Kirk	Murphy
Cochran	Landrieu	Risch
Graham	McCaskill	Roberts
Isakson	Moran	Schatz
Johnson (WI)	Murkowski	Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 33. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be a United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 178 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Ayotte	Blumenthal	Cantwell
Baldwin	Booker	Cardin
Bennet	Brown	Carper
Casey	Kaine	Reid
Collins	King	Rockefeller
Coons	Klobuchar	Sanders
Donnelly	Leahy	Schumer
Durbin	Levin	Shaheen
Feinstein	Manchin	Stabenow
Franken	Markey	Tester
Gillibrand	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Hagan	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Harkin	Mikulski	Walsh
Heinrich	Murphy	Warner
Heitkamp	Murray	Warren
Heller	Nelson	Whitehouse
Hirono	Pryor	Wyden
Johnson (SD)	Reed	

NAYS—34

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blunt	Flake	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Burr	Hatch	Scott
Chambliss	Hoeven	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Coburn	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	
Cruz	McCain	

NOT VOTING—13

Begich	Landrieu	Roberts
Boxer	McCaskill	Schatz
Cochran	Moran	Vitter
Graham	Murkowski	
Isakson	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 34. The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Nevada.

VIOLENCE IN LAS VEGAS

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take a moment to address the unsettling events that occurred yesterday when two members of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and an innocent civilian were victims of a terrible act of violence. While words offer little comfort at this difficult time, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the victims' families. The Las Vegas community is grateful to these police officers for their service and joins their families in mourning their loss. I would also like to thank the men and women of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department who sprung into action following the tragic events, even after losing members of the law enforcement community.

BOULWARE NOMINATION

With that said, Mr. President, I wish to speak in favor of a fellow Nevadan's nomination that is currently pending before this body; that is, the nomination of Richard Boulware to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Nevada.

One of the most important and unique responsibilities we hold as Members of the Senate is to provide for the advice and consent of the President's judicial nominations and subsequent confirmations.

I believe each judicial nominee who comes before this body must not only be qualified but also must demonstrate fairness and commitment to upholding the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

In Nevada, it is critical for us to work together to find qualified candidates who will uphold America's principles of impartiality under the law.

Richard Boulware is an excellent example of an accomplished nominee who should be confirmed on a bipartisan basis. I believe Mr. Boulware embodies the characteristics of a nominee who is prepared to serve and that he will make an excellent district court judge for the State of Nevada. After sitting down with him and discussing his nomination at length, I found him to be an extremely impressive nominee. A graduate of Harvard University, Mr. Boulware went on to earn his law degree from Columbia University. He currently serves as assistant Federal public defender for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas. He also has extensive experience arguing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This trial experience, coupled with his impressive academic accomplishments while clerking for the U.S. district courts, will serve him well on the bench. Outside of his professional duties, he currently serves his local school system as a member of the Superintendent's Educational Opportunities Advisory Committee.

I am glad to see the Senate moving forward with this nomination, and I look forward to voting tomorrow to confirm Mr. Boulware's nomination to the Federal bench in Nevada.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. MARKEY. I will yield to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks of the Senator from Massachusetts, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and two or three others at his choosing, that I be recognized as in morning business for such time as I shall consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. It is not an objection at this point, but I think it is our understanding that the Senator from Oklahoma will speak for 20 to 30 minutes but that the time would revert to me at the conclusion of his remarks after 20 to 30 minutes. If that is an acceptable amendment to the unanimous consent request, then I will agree to it.

Mr. INHOFE. Let's just amend the Senator's amendment that it be 20 to 35 minutes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Perfect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

We are at a very important historical juncture, where the science is now conclusive that in fact the planet is dangerously warming.

Since we last met on this floor a lot has happened. The global temperature

for April 2014 tied with 2010 for the warmest April ever recorded in the history of the planet. This goes back to 1880.

In May, the third National Climate Assessment presented the scientific evidence that climate change is already impacting the United States.

The good news. The good news is that the President last week promulgated new rules to control greenhouse gases coming out of powerplants in the United States of America.

Here is the very good news—the Senator from Rhode Island, the Senator from Vermont, the States across the Northeast—nine States have already had a regional greenhouse gas initiative over the last 9 years. In Massachusetts, we are already 40 percent lower now in 2014 than we were in 2005—40 percent lower. We know a flexible system such as this can and will work across the country.

It is absolutely necessary for the United States to be the leader. We cannot preach temperance from a bar stool. The United States cannot tell the rest of the world they should reduce their greenhouse gases when we are still continuing on our historic path.

The good news is we are going to create a green energy revolution. We can save creation while engaging in massive job creation in the United States.

We can unleash this green energy revolution. We can reduce greenhouse gases. We can give the leadership to the rest of the world. We need to have a big debate here on the Senate floor. This is the place where the United States of America expects us to have this debate and where the rest of the world is watching.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the issue we are discussing tonight, frankly, is perhaps the most important issue facing our entire planet. The issue has everything to do with whether we are going to leave a habitable planet for our kids and our grandchildren. I want to thank the Senate Climate Action Task Force, led by Senator BOXER, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator HEINRICH, and others for helping to bring us down here tonight to discuss this issue.

While it goes without saying that Senator INHOFE and many of us hold very different points of view regarding global warming, I want to congratulate him for having the courage to come down here and defend his point of view. That is what democracy is about. I think he is wrong, but I am glad he is here.

Virtually the entire scientific community agrees that climate change is real, that it is already causing devastating problems in the United States and around the world in terms of floods, droughts, wildfires, forest fires, and extreme weather disturbances. The scientific community is also almost virtually unanimous in agreeing that climate change is caused significantly by human activity.

According to a study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters in May of last year, more than 97 percent of peer-reviewed scientific literature on climate supports the view that human activity is a primary cause of global warming.

What disturbs me very much about this debate is the rejection of basic science. We can have differences of opinion on health care, on the funding of education, on whether we should have a jobs program, on many other issues. But what the U.S. Senate should not be about is rejecting basic science. It saddens me very much that most of my colleagues in the Republican Party are doing just that.

We do not hear great debates on the floor of the Senate regarding research in terms of cancer, in terms of heart disease, in terms of other scientific issues. But for whatever reason—and I happen to believe those reasons have a lot to do with the power of the coal industry, of the oil industry, of the fossil fuel industry—we are suddenly seeing a great debate on an issue the overwhelming majority of scientists agree on; that is, climate change is real; it is caused by human activity.

2012 was the second worst year on record in the United States for extreme weather. Across the globe, the 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1998. The global annual average temperature has increased by more than 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit between 1880 and 2012. Last month the White House released the National Climate Assessment, emphasizing that global warming is already happening, and warning—and people should hear this—that global warming could exceed 10 degrees Fahrenheit in the United States by the end of this century—10 degrees Fahrenheit.

That is extraordinary. If that in fact happens, if we do not summon up the courage to transform our energy system, the damage done by that severity of increase in temperature will be huge.

Also last month scientists reported a large section of the West Antarctica ice sheet is falling apart, and that its continued melting is now unstoppable.

Bloomberg reported on the 1st of June that Australia hit new heat records in May. The 24-month period ending in April 2014 was the hottest on record for any 2-year period, and the 24-month period ending with May of 2014 is expected to exceed that.

But it is not just Australia; it is my home State of Vermont. The Associated Press reported last week that the average temperature in both Vermont and Maine rose by 2.5 degrees over the past 30 years. This is the second highest of any State in the lower 48, after Maine. Maine and Vermont are at the top.

Lake Champlain provides one telling illustration of these changes. It freezes over less often and later in the winter than it used to. Between 1800 and 1900, Lake Champlain froze over 97 out of 100 winters, 97 percent of the time. That number began dropping after 1900. In the past 40 years, Lake Champlain has only frozen over 17 times. These changes impact the ski industry. They weaken our maple industry. They allow pests to survive the winter unharmed and to become more damaging to trees and crops as a result.

These impacts are expected to worsen. According to the 2014 National Climate Assessment, temperatures in the northeast could increase an additional 10 degrees Fahrenheit by 2080 if emissions continue at their current rate. By the end of the century, summers in Vermont—our beautiful summers—could feel like summers in Georgia right now. I love the State of Georgia. It is a great State. But the State of Vermont would prefer to have our summers the way they have been, not Georgia's.

The thing is these new proposed carbon pollution standards are actually quite modest. It is clear to me that if we listen to the scientific community, what they are telling us is there is a small window of opportunity, and it would be rather extraordinary—extraordinary—for us to look our kids and our grandchildren in the eye and to say: You know what. We rejected the science and we let this planet become less and less habitable for you and your kids.

We have a moral responsibility not to do that. It seems clear to me what we should be doing—and I think the scientific community is in agreement—first, we need to aggressively expand energy efficiency all over this country in terms of older homes and buildings. We can save an enormous amount of fuel, cut carbon emissions, lower fuel bills, and create jobs if we do that.

Furthermore, we must move aggressively to such sustainable energies as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and other technologies. We must invest in research and development to make those technologies even more efficient. In my view, it is a no-brainer to say we must reject the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline once and for all. We need to end tax breaks and subsidies for oil and coal companies, which amount to well over $10 billion a year. We should not be subsidizing those companies that are helping to destroy our planet.

Finally, we need to price carbon through a carbon tax or some other approach so the real cost of burning carbon is reflected in the price. I am very proud Senator BARBARA BOXER, the chairperson of the environmental committee, and I introduced such legislation last year.

The bottom line is we are in a pivotal moment in history. This Congress has got to act. It has to act boldly. When we do that, when we cut greenhouse gas emissions, when we transform our energy system, we can save many people money on their fuel bills, we can cut pollution in general, we can cut

greenhouse gas emissions significantly, and we can create good-paying jobs all over this country.

The bottom line here is we cannot afford to reject basic science. We have to listen to what the scientific community is saying. We have got to act aggressively, and let's do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, as an engineer one of the things I learned early in my education was that science does not care if you believe in it or not; you can deny science as much as you want, but the data suggests that the scientific method works pretty darn well.

The corollary to that fact is whether you believe in climate change has no bearing on whether it is actually occurring. Unfortunately, the data shows a warmer and warmer planet, characterized by weather fluctuations that are more extreme and oftentimes more destructive. In my home State of New Mexico, too often we find ourselves dealing with the impacts of climate change today, not at some theoretical future date.

For example, we are already seeing the effects of climate change and how it manifests itself in more extreme drought conditions, larger and more intense wildfires, shrinking forests, and increased flooding when it finally does rain. The longer we wait to act, the more difficult and expensive the solutions will be, and the more unpredictable our weather will become.

2012, as the Senator from Vermont mentioned, was our Nation's second most extreme year for weather on record. In my home State of New Mexico, we experienced the hottest year in our entire historical record. With humidity levels lower and temperatures higher, we are dealing with fire behavior in our forests that is markedly more intense than in the past.

We also see climate change take a toll directly on our economy, especially in my State. That is an important point, because inaction has its costs too. The costs already being borne in New Mexico are substantial. With less snowpack, communities that rely on winter sports tourism take an economic hit. Fewer people lodge in hotels, shop in stores, eat in restaurants.

Climate change is also having a devastating impact on New Mexico's agricultural industry, where farmers and ranchers are often the very first to see the direct impact of extreme weather. The agricultural sector is highly vulnerable due in large part to the sustained threat to the water supply, the soil and vegetation from continuous drought.

Things are only going to get worse if we do nothing. If we take our moral responsibility as stewards of this Earth seriously, it is imperative that we face the challenge of reversing the effects of climate change head on and have a sober discussion about what actions we will need to take now and in the future. America clearly has the capacity to become energy independent. But we also need to transition from our current energy portfolio to one that produces as much or more power with substantially less carbon pollution per kilowatt hour.

That will require innovation, something that historically our country has done better than any country in the world. But additionally, we will need political will, something we have grown short of as climate denial and pseudoscience have made their way into the halls of Congress.

If history is our guide, we should know that investing in cleaner energy will not be without cost, but little of value is ever free. The question is, are we willing to make the modest investments now necessary to create the quality jobs of tomorrow and to protect our Nation from the serious economic and strategic risks associated with our carbon reliance, our reliance on both foreign and carbon pollution-intensive energy sources?

Since we are looking at history, let's take a moment and look at the Clean Air Act of 1990, and compare the rhetoric of debate with the reality of its implementation. In 1989, the Edison Electric Institute predicted a significant rise in energy costs due to the Clean Air Act. Yet the reality, according to a recent study by the Center for American Progress, actually showed a decrease of 16 percent over those years. In 1990, the U.S. Business Roundtable claimed that passage of the Clean Air Act would cost a minimum—a minimum—of 200,000 jobs. But a recent study released by the EPA revealed the reality. The Clean Air Act resulted in a net creation of jobs and new industries created to reduce pollution, good-paying jobs in industries such as engineering, manufacturing, construction, and maintenance.

By 2008 the environmental technology sector supported 1.7 million jobs in this country.

The time has come to address climate change rather than embracing the pseudoscience and denial that is embraced by far too many in Washington today. The Nation has never solved a single problem by denying the facts. Let me be clear. Inaction is not a solution to this very real crisis. Denial is not a strategy.

Consequently, if my Republican colleagues have a better way to address carbon pollution than what the President has proposed, I would ask them to join the debate. If they have a pollution solution that is more efficient or more effective, now is the time to have that discussion.

Through American ingenuity we can slow the impact of climate change and unleash the full potential of cleaner energy. We can create a healthier, more stable environment for future generations, but we must have the will to recognize the facts as they are. We will need to make the investments that are necessary, and we will have to find the political will to act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator from Rhode Island withhold for just a moment.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I would gladly withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to my friend from Rhode Island, who is so courteous to everyone, and I appreciate it.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT— EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, June 10, following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 734, the Lauck nomination, the time until 12 noon be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and the Senate proceed to vote as under the previous order; further, that following disposition of Calendar No. 736, the Sorokin nomination, and Calendar No. 739, the Boulware nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.; that at 2:15 p.m. the time until 2:30 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and at 2:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar No. 769, the Brainard nomination, Calendar No. 771, the Powell nomination, and Calendar No. 767, the Fischer nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations on Thursday, June 12, 2014, at 1:45 p.m.; further, that any rollcall vote after the first in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. With this agreement, there will be one rollcall vote at approximately 10 a.m. tomorrow, two rollcall votes at 12 noon, and three additional rollcall votes beginning at 2:30 p.m. We had to move these votes around for a lot of reasons. One is there that is a bill signing, another is that there is a funeral, and another is that one of our Senators wants to attend his son's graduation. So we will wind up at the same place—even though it won't be as orderly—at the end of the week.

Thank you again, my friend from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Mr. President.

First, I thank Senator SANDERS of Vermont, Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts, and Senator HEINRICH of New Mexico for their remarks. I look forward to the remarks of Senator INHOFE of Oklahoma.

Viewers may wonder what we are doing here. As some will recall, several weeks ago a number of Democratic Senators—I think we ended up being 31 in total—participated in an all-night event to raise the awareness of and the discussion of climate change in this body. At that time only one of our Republican colleagues appeared to join the discussion, and that was the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, who is here again this evening.

We heard some rumblings that some of our colleagues didn't feel they were included or wished they would have had the opportunity to participate. So taking them up on that offer, a number of us sent a letter on May 30 that says, in part:

Dear Colleague . . . We would welcome an opportunity to engage with our Republican colleagues in a discussion of how to address the problems of climate change. Indeed, we think our Republican colleagues could have a lot to offer if they wished to join us in exploring solutions.

Republican colleagues have co-authored bipartisan climate legislation, voted for the comprehensive Waxman/Markey climate legislation in the House, spoken out in favor of a carbon fee, and campaigned for national office on climate action. Republican senators represent states with great coastal cities inundated by rising tides, states with farmlands swept by unprecedented floods and droughts, states with forests lost to encroaching pine beetles and wildfires unprecedented in season and intensity, states with disappearing glaciers and reduced snowpack, and states with dying coral reefs and shifting habitats and fisheries. Republican senators represent home-state corporations with international brand names, corporations that urge action on climate. Republican senators represent great universities that contribute to the scientific understanding of climate change and how human activities are changing it. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss climate change and how to respond to it with Republican senators.

I ask unanimous consent the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, May 30, 2014.

DEAR COLLEAGUE, As you may know, thirty-one of us recently took to the floor of the Senate for a ''climate all-nighter'' to express our concern over Congress's inaction on carbon pollution. We have heard some feedback expressing concerns that Republican colleagues were not invited to join in. We would welcome an opportunity to engage with our Republican colleagues in a discussion of how to address the problems of climate change. Indeed, we think our Republican colleagues could have a lot to offer if they wish to join us in exploring solutions.

Republican colleagues have co-authored bipartisan climate legislation, voted for the comprehensive Waxman/Markey climate legislation in the House, spoken out in favor of a carbon fee, and campaigned for national office on climate action. Republican senators represent states with great coastal cities inundated by rising tides, states with farmlands swept by unprecedented floods and droughts, states with forests lost to encroaching pine beetles and wildfires unprecedented in season and intensity, states with disappearing glaciers and reduced snowpack, and states with dying coral reefs and shifting habitats and fisheries. Republican senators represent home-state corporations with international brand names, corporations that urge action on climate. Republican senators represent great universities that contribute to the scientific understanding of climate change and how human activities are changing it. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss climate change and how to respond to it with Republican senators.

For any colleague who felt left out of our climate all-nighter we invite you to come to the floor. We've requested from leadership that time after votes on June 9th be reserved to engage in a robust exchange of views.

We earnestly believe that the stakes of failing to exercise American leadership and solve this problem are very high, with ramifications for our health and safety, our economic well-being, our food and water supplies, and our national security and standing. We hope you will join us in a sincere discussion.

Sincerely,

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
BARBARA BOXER,
BERNARD SANDERS,
JEFF MERKLEY,
EDWARD J. MARKEY,
U.S. Senators.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. That sets the frame for what we are doing. We have had four Democratic Senators speak. We will be joined, I believe, by Chairman BOXER and perhaps others later on in the evening.

Pursuant to the unanimous consent we have agreed to, I yield to the Senator from Oklahoma for his remarks and will seek recognition pursuant to the unanimous consent at the conclusion of his remarks.

Pursuant to that understanding, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. First, I thank my good friend for yielding. I think we will have several people coming down and talking about this tonight.

I want to say something about Senator SANDERS from Vermont. I appreciate very much his comments. I think they were very appropriate.

I remember one time when he and I had a difference of opinion on an amendment. It had to do with the amount of money one of the large oil companies made. He and I debated on floor for something like 3 hours. A vote was taken, and I did win the vote. Afterward, he came up to me and he said: I want you to know that since I have been here from the House, that was probably the most enlightened debate we have ever had, and you won and I lost, and I really do appreciate it.

We have been very good friends since then.

Well, the comments he made are real because I don't have any doubt in my mind that Senator SANDERS and the rest of you have strong feelings about this.

What I want to do is something a little bit different. I have heard several people talk, and they talk about what is the hottest year and the coldest year and all of that. I am very careful to document anything I say, and I will continue to do that tonight.

Last Monday, the EPA released the long-awaited global warming regulations for the Nation's existing fleet of powerplants. We had already talked about the new powerplants and what we are going to do. We have seen the evidence of the increased pricing of energy in this country as a result of that. Now, of course, we are going to be talking about the existing program.

The interesting thing about this—this is what they are talking about doing through regulation after they have lost every single issue on the floor of this Senate—and so trying to do it now by regulations.

The EPA's proposed rule requires powerplants to reduce their CO_2 emissions by 25 percent by 2020 and by 30 percent by 2030. I do believe there will be major legal challenges facing this rule if it goes final, and I will talk about that in just a minute.

Over the past decade the Senate has debated a number of cap-and-trade bills. The first one was the McCain-Lieberman bill of 2003—I am going from memory now. I think Republicans had a majority at that time. I think I chaired either the subcommittee or the committee of jurisdiction. We defeated the McCain-Lieberman bill. It came up again slightly changed in 2005. We defeated it at that time too. Then the Warner-Lieberman bill came up in 2008, and we defeated that even by a larger margin. The Waxman-Markey bill—and keep in mind that this was when the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts was in the House—came up in 2009, but it never did reach the floor.

All of these bills would have established greenhouse gas regulations for the Nation's largest manufacturing power-generation facilities, but once the American people learned how much these cost, Congress ran away from these bills and they were defeated.

Each and every one of these bills would have cost the economy between $300 and $400 billion in lost GDP every year. These figures are not disputed. The first time they were calculated was back when the first bill came up. At that time everyone assumed that global warming was real, they assumed that the end of the world was coming and that manmade gases were responsible for it, and that was something which was kind of accepted.

At that time, though—and I remember hearing the first speculation as to the cost—the Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Associates came out with the range of between $300 and $400 billion a year. Then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, and Charles River Associates and others came out with the same range—between $300 and $400 billion a year.

When you break this down to each household—every time there is some big regulation that comes along, I take

the number of people from my State of Oklahoma who filed a Federal tax return, number of families, and then I will calculate, do the math, and it turns out about $3,000 a family. That would make cap and trade the largest tax increase in American history.

It is not surprising that these bills did not become law. They were defeated. The McCain-Lieberman bill of 2003 fell 43 to 55; then the McCain-Lieberman bill in 2005—an even wider margin—38 to 60; and the Waxman-Markey fell because they didn't have the votes to do it.

What I am saying is that the trend is not going the way my good friend from Rhode Island would like to have it go. Instead, more and more people are opposing this.

Part of what is motivating the EPA's rule is that they want to say they leveled the playing field between parts of the country that don't have cap-and-trade programs. I think one of the previous speakers talked about the fact that many places like—I see the Senator from California is here now—California and the Northeastern States have cap and trade. These regions are hurting economically in part because of the onerous environmental regulations, including cap-and-trade programs they have been working to implement for so many years.

But the real result of this has been higher electricity prices. In fact, the average price of retail electricity in New England, according to the Energy Information Administration, is 17.67 cents per kilowatt hour. That is almost 18 cents a kilowatt hour. Compare that to Oklahoma. We are at 9 cents per kilowatt hour. We are one-half the cost in my State of Oklahoma for electricity. You see we have a real competitive advantage. There is nothing that keeps the Northeast from bringing their electricity costs down, but they are unwilling to do it. They are unwilling to do what we did; that is, utilize a diverse, inexpensive fuel supply we can source from right at home in Oklahoma.

California implemented its own cap-and-trade program just over a year ago, and it applies to both heavy industry and power generation. The State boasts that its program is second in size only to the European cap-and-trade program. Today, however, California's electricity prices are 15.94 cents—in other words, 16 cents per kilowatt hour—a stunning 70 percent more than they are in my State of Oklahoma.

Knowing this, it isn't surprising we constantly hear about all the jobs and companies and manufacturing facilities that are moving from places such as California and New England to States such as Oklahoma and to the South where we don't have these same kinds of regulations. What we want to do in Oklahoma is develop a nurturing environment for business to thrive, and a big part of it is having inexpensive, reliable energy. That is what we have in Oklahoma. EPA's rule threatens all we have worked so hard to accomplish, and it is all because so many politicians are beholden to the radical environmentalists.

What is interesting to me is the more and more the other side talks about global warming and all of the purported solutions here in Washington, the less and less people care.

In March, when Senate Democrats hosted their first global warming slumber party, Gallup released the results of the poll I believe the same day, showing Americans rank global warming as the 14th most important issue out of 15. I believe this was on March 9 or 10 when they had their last slumber party. It used to be No. 1 or No. 2, and now it is nearly last. We can see on this chart Gallup's poll numbers over time showing Americans care less about environmental issues than they ever did before. We can see the changes that have taken place. What people really care about are the economy and government spending. Those are the top two issues across party lines.

If enacted, this rule is going to cause serious damage to the economy. The Chamber of Commerce last week put out a study on regulations similar to the EPA's new greenhouse gas rules and found they will cost the economy $51 billion in lost GDP and 224,000 lost jobs each year—not just once but each year.

The Heritage Foundation put out separate analysis calculating that the rule would enact a cumulative hit of $2.23 trillion in lost GDP and destroy 600,000 jobs. By their measure, the average income for a family of four would decrease by $1,200 a year. I believe it is actually closer to $3,000 a year. Nonetheless, there is the consistency.

If we want to see where these regulations will ultimately lead, we need look no farther than the modeling President Obama uses. We need to be, as he says, more like Germany. Starting a few years ago, Germany began implementing an aggressive alternative energy agenda where they hiked subsidies and set a goal of generating 35 percent of their electricity from renewables by 2020. By 2050, this goal would increase to 80 percent. In doing this, the price of German retail electricity has doubled from where it was before. It is now 3 times—300 percent—higher than ours.

The next chart is Der Spiegel, a major publication in Germany. They recently had this on the cover of the magazine with the heading ''Luxury Electricity: Why energy has become more expensive and what politicians must do about it.''

In this, they talk about the politicians and others who are wishing Germany had not done what it was doing. And while industry, utilities, consumers, and some politicians are calling for reforms to the laws, it may be too late because everything is already on the books. This is what they are finding in Germany—and we all know how hard it is to repeal a law once it becomes implemented. So the Germans started this, and we are now emulating Germany, and their cost of electricity has doubled. When we talk about doubling, to a lot of people—maybe a lot of us who serve in this Chamber—that is not a big deal. But take a poor family that is spending 50 percent of their income on energy. It is something they can't handle.

EPA's rules will push us in the same direction as Germany—which makes sense, when we consider the EPA's recent rules such as utility MACT and the 316(b) rule, and the NRC's incessant overregulation of the nuclear power industry. We have perfectly good powerplants being forced to shut down all over the country. Now we have this rule coming out of EPA that will force even more shutdowns and push the Nation to more aggressively adopt renewables, and over a very short period of time. This is going to cause reliability and affordability issues.

We have been talking about affordability. Reliability is another thing too, because we have to have a reliable source that doesn't stop. There is no way around it. It is not just me saying this. FERC Commissioner Phil Moeller recently predicted that because of EPA's overregulation, the Nation could face rolling blackouts by next summer. Renewables will only make this risk more severe. If a substantial amount of electricity is being provided by renewables, then we will become vulnerable to reliability risks.

What I mean by that is we don't always know when the Sun is going to be shining or when the wind is going to be blowing, but there is always a demand for power. The demand is always there, but the wind stops. I understand this. I am from Oklahoma. We can have a very windy day and all of a sudden it stops, and the Sun maybe stops shining. If the wind is blowing really hard one day and then stops the next, significant strains are put on the electricity grid.

To compensate for that, we have to have backup power ready to come online at a moment's notice—where it is turned off 1 minute and then on the next. Having that kind of capacity sitting around waiting for the Sun to stop shining is incredibly expensive, which is one of the reasons Germany's power is so much more expensive than others.

So when I hear the President and EPA saying this rule could actually lower electricity bills, it makes me wonder if they ever sit down in the same room with FERC and NERC and NRC to tell it like it is. Honestly, they are not telling the truth.

The President and Administrator McCarthy have also been touting the human health benefits this rule will deliver. To help announce the new rule, President Obama did a conference call with the American Lung Association and said it would help reduce instances of childhood asthma. Gina McCarthy made the same point in her remarks about the rule. But this completely contradicts what EPA previously said.

In this chart which the Agency has published, in official documentation, it says greenhouse gases ''do not cause direct adverse health effects such as respiratory or toxic effects.'' I know others will stand up to refute this, but this is what the EPA said.

What is even worse is this rule will not have any impact on global CO_2 emissions. We know this because of the President's first EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson. This is kind of interesting. I asked her the question during the committee hearing, on live TV: If we were to do away, either pass cap-and-trade or by regulation, would this reduce the overall CO_2 emissions worldwide?

And she said: No, it wouldn't. Her quote is: ''U.S. action alone will not impact world CO_2 levels.'' This is because the largest tax increase in history, without any benefits—because once you implement these regulations, our manufacturing base would go someplace where they can find it; maybe China, maybe India, maybe Mexico. But they will go places where they don't have the stringent emission requirements we have in this country. So in that case, emissions would actually go up instead of down.

Add to all of this the fact that there has been no increase in global surface temperature between 1998 and 2013. This is according to the journal Nature, the Economist, and even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that is the United Nations. They are the ones who started this, and even they say there has not been any increase in global surface temperature between the years of 1998 and 2013.

This pause was totally unexpected by the scientific community. After all, CO_2 concentrations went up by 8 percent over the same period of time—which, according to the models, should have led to significant temperature increases. This chart shows the difference between actual temperatures—the blue and the green lines down here—and the temperatures that were predicted by ''consensus'' scientific community—the red line. They said this is where the heat was coming, and it didn't happen. It is clear the scientific community, which everyone puts so much trust in, did not predict a pause would actually happen.

Add to this the fact that the U.S. Historical Climatology Network is reporting that this is the coldest year so far on record for the United States. Others will say, no, that is not true. So I quoted this source, the U.S. Historical Climatology Network, that if things continue as they are so far, this will be the coldest year on record in the United States.

Normally, putting all this together would make me wonder why the President is pushing these regulations. But then I remember Tom Steyer. Let me introduce him.

This man, who made billions in the traditional energy industry, is the new poster child of the environmental left. He is the one who promised to direct $100 million to resurrect the dead issue of global warming. He has the President and others on board with his plan, and they are following through. Tonight's slumber party is proof enough.

I can hear it now. A severe case of righteous indignation is going to show up, and they are going to say: Are you saying Tom Steyer is putting 100 million in these races?

No, I am not saying that. That is what Tom Steyer is saying.

I have a quote here from him: It is true that we expect to be heavily involved in the midterm elections. We are looking at a bunch of races. My guess is we will end up being involved in eight or more races. And that is with $100 million.

But that is what this all comes down to—a key constituency of the Democratic Party wanting to see the Nation completely change the way we generate and consume energy—for no environmental benefit. The only benefit here is a political one.

In closing, I wish to highlight a few of the legal issues I mentioned a minute ago that will likely come up once the rule is finalized. There are three main reasons why I do not believe this rule, from a legal perspective, is an appropriate construct of the Clean Air Act. I always supported the Clean Air Act amendments, and good things happened from them.

The first is the Clean Air Act was never designed to handle greenhouse gas emissions. We know that. This is a bipartisan perspective. Congressman JOHN DINGELL, one of the principal architects of the Clean Air Act over in the House, said last week:

> I do not believe the Clean Air Act is intended, or is the most effective way, to regulate greenhouse gases.

The second legal reason is this rule relies on an outside-the-fence approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Section 111 of the Clean Air Act should only allow the EPA to establish a process where the States determine the most appropriate emission reductions on a facility-by-facility basis. Instead, the EPA has set statewide emission reduction mandates, without regard to the technical feasibility of actually accomplishing the goal.

Cap-and-trade proposals will emerge under this, which will ultimately pit industries against one another. So the real impact of this rule could far exceed its advertised intent of targeting only powerplants.

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has effectively made this case and will lead the charge challenging the legal authority of this rule, should it become final. I am very proud of the attorney general, because he has been very effective in leading other attorneys general around the country to join in this effort.

The third reason this rule is inappropriate is because the Clean Air Act states that section 111(b) regulations cannot be pursued in the event the facilities are already regulated under section 112, which governs air toxins. Powerplants are already regulated under this section. So the fact they are trying to regulate them under 111(b) is inconsistent with the law, and that of course will be on our side on this.

There are a number of major reasons why this rule may not stand up in the courts. But it is my expectation that it will not come to that point. The largest tax increase in history. The Earth's surface has not gotten warmer in 14 years. Polling shows Americans don't believe it is a huge problem. It is huge for job losses. Stopping CO_2 in the United States won't affect world CO_2 emissions. That is what we have from the Administrator of the EPA. So we will be hearing a lot of things tonight, all about what is going on, and they will be discreet with me. That is the reason I always document things.

Let me predict what I think is going to happen. A lot of people are not aware that there is something called the CRA, the Congressional Review Act. The Congressional Review Act is something where people say: Yes, there is a crisis in this country. Don't blame me. I am a Member of Congress. I didn't vote for it, but the regulators did this. This puts them where they should be in having to take a position.

The CRA is something introduced with 30 cosponsors. I already have 30 cosponsors to file a CRA on every one of these regulations, if they do become final. You cannot do it until they become final. Then it is a simple majority. So people are going to have to get on record, and to me that is really all we really need to get people on record on this.

I think you are probably going to hear some issues and people will assume that these are really happening. You will hear that extreme weather is increasing. The reinsurance company and global-related disaster losses have declined by 25 percent as a proportion of GDP. They will say that hurricanes are happening. Yet the Washington Post says the United States has not been witness to a category 3 or higher major hurricane landfall since October of 2005 when Wilma hit Southwest Florida as a Category 3 storm.

They will be talking about drought, in spite of the fact that even the IPCC has stated that in the United States droughts have become less frequent, less continuous, or shorter in central North America. Nature, the well-respected publication, says drought for the most part has become shorter, less frequent, and covered a smaller portion of the United States over the last century.

Flooding—the IPCC comes in again talking about this. The USGS says floods have not increased in the United States in frequency or intensity since at least 1950. NOAA says flood losses as a percentage of GDP have dropped by 75 percent since 1940. You are going to hear about flooding. That is why it is necessary to document these things.

NOAA, talking about tornadoes, says: Tornadoes have not increased in frequency, intensity or normalized damage since 1950. Some data shows that there has been a decline. So we have all these issues that I am sure we will be discussing sooner or later.

Polar bears—the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee gave me a polar bear coffee cup, which I use frequently, and we display that very prominently. But they say in the 1950s and 1960s there were between 5,000 and 10,000 polar bears. Today there are between 15,000 and 25,000.

So we have all these issues that are a reality on the glaciers. You can record the hurricanes and all these other items, and, yes, they are going to be talking about them, I am sure, during the course of the evening.

Let me just mention one other item from memory on this, but I know it is right because the I have said it so many times and it has recently been documented. We go through these 30-year cycles all the time. We have been going through them for a long time. If you take in 1895, all of a sudden everything started getting cooler, and that is when the term ice age first came along. They said another ice age is coming. That lasted until 1918. In 1918, all of a sudden it started getting warmer, and that was the first time you heard about global warming. That was 1918 to 1945. In 1945 it turned again—you see, every 30 years—and all of a sudden it got cold. They talked about another ice age coming. I remember Time magazine had a cover talking about the ice age. Then in 1970 another warm period came along. That is the one that people have been talking about.

Here is the thing. In 1945 we had the largest amount of increase in CO_2 emissions of any time in the recorded history of this country, and that precipitated not a warming period but a cooling period. Now as they have said, we haven't been warming for the last 15 years. So this is always a difficult issue to deal with. I know the effort is there. I know it is renewed now and people are excited about it, and I could assure you the trend is in the wrong direction, and it is not going to happen.

With that, Mr. President, my time has expired, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Under the unanimous consent request, the floor reverts to me, but the distinguished Member from California, my chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, has joined us, and I will yield for the Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Presiding Officer, and I also want to thank my friend Senator WHITEHOUSE, such a great leader on this issue.

I am really glad that Senator INHOFE, my good friend, came down to the floor. He deserves a thank you because he has laid out why he denies the obvious, and that is that this planet is warming and it is due to human activity. Frankly, it is his right to turn his back on 97 percent of the scientists just like the deniers did when we learned that it was, in fact, smoking that was causing an epidemic of lung cancer. I respect Senator INHOFE. I am glad he came. But I have to say, I am sad that we haven't seen any Republicans come here except for Senator INHOFE who has written a whole book on this—and we know his views—but we don't see anybody else.

Let me tell you what we know from our other colleagues. Let's just take the Speaker—the Republican Speaker of the House, who said when asked about climate change—he kind of has a different view than Senator INHOFE, as does Senator RUBIO. This is what they said when asked what they think about climate change. Their answer is: Well, I am not a scientist. What do I know?

Well, right. They are not. Why don't you listen, then, to 97 percent of the scientists, if you admit that you are not a scientist?

What are Speaker BOEHNER or Senator RUBIO or the others who are these deniers saying? They are now saying they are not a scientist. Let's say they went to the doctor and the doctor said: Look, you have a serious liver condition, and I have a new drug that has been created to cure your disease. I don't think we should wait, and let's go.

And you didn't say: Well, I want a second opinion; I want to go to another doctor. You said: You know what. I am not a doctor. I don't think so.

Does that make sense?

What if you went to a dentist and the dentist said: Senator, you have an abscess. It is pretty straightforward. I can fix it. If you let it go, you are going to get an infection. I don't know what can happen.

Now, if I said to the dentist that I am going to check with a couple other people, then that is fine. But no, if I said: Oh, I am not a dentist, but I don't think so. As my friend told me before, you take your car in for repair, and they say: You know, there is something wrong with the brakes here, and we have to tighten those brakes. Can you leave the car here?

Well, I am not a repairman.

Ninety-seven percent of the scientists—they are all peer reviewed and are telling us what is happening to our planet.

Here is the thing about these deniers. If they want to jump off the climate change cliff and just go by themselves, that is their choice, but they are going to take everybody with them; OK? My grandkids, your grandkids, and their kids—and we are not going to let it happen. Senator WHITEHOUSE isn't going to let it happen. I am not going to let it happen. The President isn't going to let it happen.

Climate change is all around us. We must take action to reduce harmful carbon pollution, which 97 percent of scientists agree is leading to dangerous climate change that threatens our families. We cannot be bullied by those who have their heads in the sand, and whose obstruction is leading us off the climate change cliff.

One week ago the President released his new proposal to control dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants, and it is a win-win-win for the American people. Power plants are the largest source of the Nation's harmful carbon pollution accounting for nearly 40 percent of all carbon released into the air. Unlike other pollutants, right now there are no limits to the amount of carbon pollution that can be released into the air for power plants. The President's carbon pollution reduction plan will protect public health and save thousands of lives. It will avoid up to 6,600 premature deaths, 150,000 asthma attacks, 3,300 heart attacks, 2,800 hospital admissions, and 490,000 missed days at school and work.

The President's plan to reduce harmful carbon pollution will also create thousands of jobs. By reducing carbon pollution we can avert the most calamitous impacts of climate change—such as rising sea levels, dangerous heat waves, and economic disruption.

As the recent Congressionally-required National Climate Assessment report tells us, we could see a 10 degree Fahrenheit rise in temperature if we do not act to limit dangerous carbon pollution now.

The President's proposal is respectful of the States' roles and allows major flexibility, while ensuring that big polluters reduce their significant contributions to climate change. The plan will allow the States to work with the EPA to analyze costs, and ensure carbon pollution standards continue to promote innovation and continue America's leadership in pollution control technology.

By cutting carbon emissions from power plants by 30 percent nationwide from 2005 levels, the President's plan will also help American families and businesses. The President's plan is projected to shrink electricity bills roughly 8 percent by increasing energy efficiency and reducing demand in the electricity system.

The American public wants action. According to a Washington Post-ABC poll released today, a bipartisan majority of the American people want Federal limits on carbon pollution. Approximately 70 percent say the Federal Government should require limits to carbon pollution from existing power plans, and 70 percent—57 percent of Republicans, 76 percent of Independents, and 79 percent of Democrats—support requiring States to limit the amount of carbon pollution within their borders.

The President's proposed carbon pollution standards for existing power plants is supported by the Clean Air Act. Congress gave the President the ability to control air pollution in the Clean Air Act. In 1990, revisions to the

Act overwhelming passed by a vote of 89–11 in the Senate and 401-21 in the House. In 2007, the Supreme Court confirmed in Massachusetts v. EPA that as passed by Congress, the Clean Air Act in no uncertain terms gave the Environmental Protection Agency authority to control carbon pollution. Four years later, the Supreme Court in American Electric Power v. Connecticut, specifically found that the Clean Air Act has provisions in place to limit carbon pollution from power plants—the very provisions the President is using in his proposed power plant carbon standards.

We have long known that air pollution contributes to climate change. During the debate on the 1970 Clean Air Act Amendments, Senator Boggs introduced into the record a White House Report stating that: ''Air pollution alters climate and may produce global changes in temperature. . . . [T]he addition of particulates and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could have dramatic and long-term effects on world climate.'' And the Clean Air Act has a proven track record.

The U.S. has shown we can continue to protect the environment and grow the economy. Over the last 40 years since the passage of the Clean Air Act, air pollution has dropped 68 percent and America's GDP has grown 212 percent. Total private sector jobs increased by 88 percent. Between 1980 and 2012, gross domestic product increased 133 percent, vehicle miles traveled increased 92 percent, energy consumption increased 27 percent, and U.S. population grew by 38 percent. During the same time period, total emissions of the six principal air pollutants dropped by 67 percent.

It is in America's DNA to turn a problem into an opportunity, and that is what we have done by being a pioneer in the green technology industry. These new carbon pollution standards are no different. Landmark environmental laws have bolstered an environmental technology and services sector that employs an estimated 3.4 million people, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. And many of these jobs, like installing solar roofs and wind turbines cannot be outsourced.

We must take action to protect families and communities from the mounting impacts of climate change. Just look at China, which has hazardous levels of air pollution and toxic emissions. According to a scientific study from the Health Effect Institute on leading causes of death worldwide, outdoor air pollution contributed to 1.2 million premature deaths in China in 2010, which is nearly 40 percent of the global total. Officials in China have recently suggested that they plan to take steps to address their carbon pollution, but the U.S. cannot wait for China to act. The President's new power plant standards are a major step forward. They show that America will finally lead on a path to averting the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

On Friday the White House released a report on the harmful health impacts of climate change, especially on our most vulnerable populations like children, the elderly and low-income Americans. The report cited impacts like increased ground level ozone which could worsen respiratory illnesses like asthma, increased air pollutants from wildfires, and more heat-related and flood-related deaths. The first line in this new report sums up why we must take action to reduce carbon pollution:

> We have a moral obligation to leave our children a planet that's not irrevocably polluted or damaged.

The American people want us to protect their children and families from dangerous climate change. We must safeguard our children, our grandchildren, and generations to come.

The people of my home State of California and the American people deserve these new protections, and the President should be lauded for moving forward and tackling one of our Nation's greatest challenges.

I am going to spend the rest of my time summing it up by refuting some of the things Senator INHOFE said.

I have to say the President deserves a lot of credit for his plan. What is really interesting is it is supported by 70 percent of the American people, who ''think the Federal Government should limit the release of greenhouse gasses from existing power plants in an effort to reduce global warming.''

That includes amazingly 57 percent of Republicans, 79 percent of Democrats, and 76 percent of Independents who support the President's plan. They are not stupid. They are smart.

Look what happens when you throw the environment under the bus. People walk around in air that you can see. You don't want to see the air. You don't want to wear a mask when you go outside. The American people get it.

Then my colleague says: They are going to scare you. They are going to scare you. There is no problem with carbon in the air. There is no problem at all.

Well, let me tell you who disagrees with Senator INHOFE, who disagrees with the Republicans: the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Thoracic Society, the American Public Health Association, the American Lung Association, the National Nurses Union. They all have statements that say climate change is a threat to public health.

Who are the people going to listen to? Us politicians or people who spend every day of their life waking up in the morning and thinking of ways to protect our health? Yes, if the deniers want to jump off the cliff and they only hurt themselves, I suppose that is their option. But they are taking my kids, and they are taking all the kids of our American families, and we are not going to let that happen.

I will close with this. The Senator from Oklahoma started to say: This is going to kill you. It is going to raise your prices of electricity. Jobs are going to be lost. He cited a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study that has been so rebuffed that the Washington Post gave it their most Pinocchios—in other words, four Pinocchios for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce because they were responding to something that never came about.

This plan of the President's makes a whole lot of sense. He has courage to do it. We are going to stand behind it. And, yes, the Republicans are going to try to repeal it. Let me give them the bad news from their perspective. They have sent over dozens and dozens of environmental riders. I want to say over 90—over 90—and we have beaten back every single one of them. For colleagues to stand there and say Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and I are doing this because it is an election year is a joke. We have been doing this for years.

I daresay Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE has made more speeches on the floor than anyone on this subject. When I had the gavel for the first time in 2007, I had to fight to keep it in my hand because, guess what. We had Al Gore before the committee. Remember? Senator INHOFE was so stressed he tried to grab the gavel. We have kind of a funny picture in our office in which I said: ''Elections have consequences.'' And they do. But to say that we are doing this because there is some donor is the most absurd thing I have ever heard.

I will put in the record a statement by Lyndon Johnson. This shows how far back Democrats have warned about this. This is amazing. My staff discovered this. He said this in 1965.

In his ''Special Message to the Congress on Conservation and Restoration of Natural Beauty'' President Lyndon B. Johnson stated that, ''The Clean Air Act should be improved to permit [EPA] to investigate potential air pollution problems before pollution happens, rather than having to wait until the damage occurs, as is now the case, and to make recommendations leading to the prevention of such pollution.''

''Air pollution is no longer confined to isolated places. This generation has altered the composition of the atmosphere on a global scale through radioactive materials and a steady increase in carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.''

So don't come on this floor and say suddenly the Democrats care about this because it is an election year. It is ridiculous. We have known about this for years. We have been trying to get the attention of our colleagues.

I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE. He and I signed a letter with several others inviting our colleagues to the floor. All we got was Senator INHOFE—not that we don't love him, and we appreciate he came over here, but we have to now assume he speaks for everybody on that side, which is scary, because they have turned their backs on the doctors.

They have turned their backs on the scientists, and they have turned their backs on the American people.

Thank you, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and I would yield back to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the hope for this evening was that by extending a formal invitation to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, somebody would come to the floor who was not just outright denying that climate change is happening.

For a while Senator INHOFE's was focused on the economics of various types of regulation during his remarks. At that point I thought maybe we could have a conversation about the best way to solve the climate change problem, but toward the end of his remarks, he got back to denying that it is happening at all, which makes a tough place to begin negotiations.

There are plenty of other Republican Senators in this body, many of whom have worked on this issue in the past. I don't know whether it is a coincidence, but the level of activity by Republican Senators on climate change collapsed shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United. As many of my Republican friends have pointed out to me on the floor, there have been times when the big, dark, anonymous election money that has been thrown around since that decision has been made has been spent against Republicans more than against Democrats.

We hope that as we resolve that issue, some of our friends find a way back to the positions they have held in the past, back to campaigning nationally on climate issues, supporting bipartisan climate legislation, supporting a carbon fee, and voting for a cap-and-trade bill. That is where they had been before Citizens United, and we had hoped to bring them back. But the champion sent by the Republican side to represent their point of view tonight was Senator INHOFE, who has written a book that said this is all just a big hoax. In that sense it was disappointing.

I have heard these arguments before, and as we go down the list, I think it is worth taking a moment to knock them aside. One of my personal favorites is that the EPA is doing this after the issue was repeatedly blocked in Congress. Well, yes, it has been blocked in Congress by coal and oil and polluter interests. So the interests that have blocked a highway don't get to complain when traffic has to take a detour.

We would be delighted to work on serious climate legislation in this body. We would be delighted to have it here. For a lot of reasons, we would get a better result if we addressed climate change legislation here rather than through the EPA rule. This is where the conversation should take place, but when oil and coal and polluting industries take the position that this is not real and force the Republican Party into that position—that climate change is not real—then we are obviously not going to have a very meaningful discussion about solving a problem, and that is what forces it go to the EPA. It is a little rich for those who have shut down this forum for solving this problem to complain when it gets solved in another and less efficient way. They don't very well get to do that.

The high cost of the solution is—I think Senator INHOFE said—$300 to $400 billion and that it is not disputed. Well, yes, it is totally disputed. It is absolutely disputed. In fact, it is not even true.

The best way to solve this problem is with a revenue-neutral carbon fee. What does revenue neutral mean? Revenue neutral means that for every dollar that comes in from the carbon pollution fee that the polluters have to pay, it goes right back out to the American people and straight back into the economy; 100 cents on the dollar goes back to the American people. That is what I would like to see. It can be done through tax deductions.

A conservative organization, the American Enterprise Institute, has coauthored a report with the Brookings Institution on what they call a carbon tax. I call it a carbon pollution fee, because when we are giving all the money straight back to the American people, it is not truly a tax. It is not general revenue to the government. The money goes straight back out. When we do that, I think there is a case to be made that that actually propels the economy.

Investing in innovation, supporting and creating different types of energy that we can build in America is inevitably going to be better for our economy than having to use fossil fuels, clean up after the pollution, and deal with the foreign countries that traffic in fossil fuels. It would all lead to a better circumstance for our country.

The Senator from Oklahoma also said this is the product of what he called the radical environmental movement. One group that speaks very strongly on climate change is NASA. Right now NASA is driving around a Rover on the surface of Mars. They built a Rover that is about the size of an SUV, launched it into space, landed it successfully on the planet Mars, and they are now driving it around. Do you think these people know what they are talking about? Do you think NASA is a radical environmentalist movement? Really? That is a conspiracy theory that has run amok if you think NASA is part of a radical environmentalist movement.

How about our military? ''National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change'' by the CNA Military Advisory Board. The CNA Corporation is a corporation largely comprised of retired military who are kept on in that role to advise the military on emerging issues. It is sort of a think tank for the U.S. military that has been there through Republican and Democratic administrations alike. This report, ''National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change,'' was done by this military advisory board with some very interesting people.

How about BG Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., the former dean at the U.S. Military Academy. Do you think the dean from West Point is part of a radical environmental movement?

How about Lee Gunn, a former inspector general of the Department of the Navy. He doesn't seem like a very radical environmentalist to me.

ADM Skip Bowman, former Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; Gen. James Conway, former Commandant of the Marine Corps—now there are some radical leftwing environmentalists for you, the U.S. Marines.

This is so far beyond that. Organizations such as Walmart, Coke and Pepsi, Ford and GM, UPS and FedEx, Target, Nike, VF Corporation, one of the biggest apparel manufacturers in the country located in North Carolina—all are totally on board with this.

The military is totally on board with this. NASA is totally on board with this, as is the National Science Foundation and every major scientific organization in the country—every single one. So let's not pretend this is a fringe group of radical environmentalists trying to foist an idea on the country. This is a fringe residue of oil and coal and polluting interests trying to prevent the end of a long holiday they have had from any responsibility for all the harm their carbon pollution has caused.

Let me tell you firsthand there is harm happening in my home State of Rhode Island, and it is not deniable. The deniers will never talk about the oceans. They will never talk about the oceans. They will talk about distant climate theory all day long, but when we go to the sea, the sea does not bear false witness.

The sea level is rising, and we measure that with essentially a yardstick nailed to the end of a pier. A tide gauge is not a complex instrument, and off the Naval War College in Newport, RI, the seas are up 10 inches since the 1930s. Why is that? We have known since President Lincoln was President that when we add carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, it warms the planet. That is not a hypothesis. That science has been established since Abraham Lincoln in his stovepipe hat drove around Washington in a carriage.

We know billions of tons of carbon dioxide have gone up there. We know further that virtually all the heat has gone into the oceans. Unless somebody wants to deny the law of thermal expansion—and I have not heard anybody willing to deny that yet—when we warm up the ocean, guess what. It expands and rises. We in Rhode Island have seen seas 10 inches higher thrown at our shores by a big storm or hurricane. It makes a big difference.

I challenge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to give me just 5 minutes of their time and go to Google and look up the images of the hurricane of 1938. Look at the pictures of what happened in my State when the sea level was 10 inches lower.

Senator INHOFE mentioned the U.S. Chamber of Commerce study. I am a little surprised he did that because he is not the first Republican to mention the U.S. Chamber of Commerce study. Speaker BOEHNER mentioned the U.S. Chamber of Commerce study too. He earned a false from PolitiFact for referencing that study. The Washington Post gave it four Pinocchios. You know Pinocchio, his nose would grow longer when he would not tell the truth. So that was a strange place to go.

He said there has been no temperature increase. He said: ''It didn't happen.'' It did happen. It absolutely did happen. It happened in the oceans where more than 90 percent of the heat goes. It happened in the oceans, and it can be measured with thermometers. It is not complicated.

If you go to Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island, you will see that the mean winter water temperature is 3 to 4 degrees warmer, and it has a real effect on Rhode Islanders. Men used to go out on boats with trawls and catch winter flounder in Narragansett Bay, and it was a cash crop. It was a fishery that fed their families. It has crashed 90 percent, and a significant part of that is because the bay is no longer hospitable to winter flounder when it is 3 to 4 degrees warmer. It simply doesn't work.

The public is with us, and we will get this done. Tonight we have seen what we are up against. Not one Republican in this building would come tonight at our invitation and say one word about climate change being real—not one Republican, not one word. So that is what we are up against. But they have lost the American public, and so the fall of the denial castle is inevitable. It is built on sand, and the sand is eroding. It is eroding.

Even among young Republican voters—self-identified Republican voters under the age of 35—the hypothesis offered by the deniers that climate change is not real is viewed as—and these are the words from the poll, not my words—''ignorant, out of touch, or crazy.''

I submit that a party whose own voters under the age of 35 view that party's position of denying climate change as ''ignorant, out of touch, or crazy'' is a party that needs a new position on climate change. They are not even selling their own young voters, and they are certainly not selling the general public, which wants the President to do something about this in enormous numbers—70 and 80 percent, depending on whether one is looking at Democrats, Independents or the full population.

I will close with two specifics because we often have these debates sort of at the IPCC versus the Sierra Club level.

I have been going around to different States, and I have been looking at what is going on State by State. I have been to seven States already. I wish to mention two tonight. I just got back from New Hampshire, the most recent trip. What is going on in New Hampshire? New Hampshire, as many people know, has a big ski industry. It is a winter holiday destination, a winter vacation and tourism destination, and skiing is a big part of that. I met with the guy who runs the Cranmore ski mountain. They have, I want to say, tripled, or thereabouts, the number of snowmaking guns they have on their slopes. They have gotten better at it. They have made it more efficient so they make more snow. So as there is less snowpack in the mountains, they are able to get around it by making more snow. But the reality of this is proven by the fact that they have to go out there and make more snow. As a New Hampshire official said, that is fine for the slopes. They can get out there, and they can roar those guns all night long and make snow on those mountain slopes. But if a person is a Nordic skier, they have to go out on trails, and there is no economic way to blow snow onto trails. If a person is a snowmobile enthusiast, they go out on snow trails, and there is no economic way to blow snow onto snowmobile trails. They are seeing a dramatic falling off in Nordic and snowmobile tourism as a result and of the availability of that important market for them.

They talked about two animals. I will start with the moose. It is a pretty iconic species for New Hampshire, I was told. There are moose tours. Who knew? People go up to New Hampshire to look at moose. Moose touring is a multimillion-dollar industry. I learned something new on that trip. That industry is suffering from a couple of things. First of all, sometimes they do the moose tours on snowmobiles—no snow, no snowmobile moose tours. But worse—indeed, eerily, horrifyingly, creepily—the moose are dying off because they are being overwhelmed by ticks. Now, picking a tick off my dog is enough to give me the heebie-jeebies, and if I find one myself, it is a little creepy. We are not talking about one tick on these moose. We are not talking about 100 ticks. We are not even talking about 1,000 ticks on these moose. We are talking about 50,000 to 100,000 ticks per moose—so much that they can't keep themselves healthy. The blood is being sucked out of them by tens of thousands of ticks.

So the expert in that area who spoke to me said the reaction from the mothers is to just have one calf instead of two. That keeps the population from growing, and the calves basically starve. They die of anemia. They can't feed themselves.

They can't keep a blood system running that feeds themselves and the thousands of ticks. These things grow to be the size of a blueberry or a grape. It is really appalling. This is an emblematic mammal of New Hampshire, and this is what is befalling it.

What do the New Hampshire folks say is causing it? The retreat of the snow. The ticks, when they are falling and breeding and laying their eggs—whatever the heck they do to reproduce; I am no tick expert. But they do it on Earth now, whereas when they fell on snow, boom, that was it. So the explosion in the tick population and the disgusting infestation on those poor animals is directly related to the retreat of the snow.

The last point on New Hampshire, the State bird is evidently the purple finch. The purple finch has a very particular kind of habitat. Because of the way the climate is changing, that habitat is shrinking, and one of the bird experts I spoke to said they are looking at the prospect of the purple finch being a species that New Hampshire folks have to go to Canada to find. It is their State bird, but they have to go to Canada to find it.

The other State I will close with is Florida. Florida is ground zero for climate change. In Florida, great cities are flooding at high tide. The systems that used to drain water out of the cities in a rain storm are now flooding salt water into the cities because of sea level rise at high tides. I have met with former mayors and county commissioners who have shown me pictures of people riding their bicycle hub deep through water, on a bright sunny day. It is not raining; it is salt water. It has come up. One picture was of a yard where the homeowner had hammered a sign into the yard, ''No wake zone,'' so that cars driving by on the flooded road wouldn't create a wake and wash more salt water into their yard. Some weren't so lucky, and the water was right through the front door and into the house.

The Republican mayor of Monroe County has made climate change a priority. She has instructed her county government to do a climate change report, looking particularly at sea level rise—the Republican mayor of Monroe County. Yet, what do we hear from the Republican side here? Not a peep. Not a peep.

She said something else that is interesting. I will close with this. I asked her how the coral reefs were doing. A lot of people go to Florida to snorkel and to scuba dive and to see the wonders of the world under the sea. I said: Mayor, how are your reefs doing? I have heard a lot about what acidification and warming temperatures are doing to reefs. She said: They are still beautiful. Then she paused and said: Unless you were here 10 or 20 years ago. Ten or 20 years, and we see that change.

What is happening to the reefs is really catastrophic.

My friends on the other side never want to talk about this. They want to talk about climate modeling. We don't need a model to go to the end of the dock at Fort Pulaski and see how much

the sea level has risen. We measure it. It is simple. It is the same thing at the Naval War College. We measure it. It is simple. We don't need complex computer models to go to Narragansett Bay and see it is nearly four degrees warmer mean water temperature and all the changes that happen as a result. We use a thermometer. It is not complicated. And the acidification of the oceans that is affecting the coral reefs and so many other creatures—it wiped out the northwest oyster spat. People grow oysters in the Pacific Northwest, and the sea water that came in was so acidic, it dissolved the shells of the baby oysters and wiped out a huge percentage of their crop. That we measure with the same kind of litmus tests kids do with their aquariums. It is not complicated. But they always want to talk about where it can be confusing. They never want to confront the problem.

We are going to find ways to continue to insist on confronting this problem. They may not be here tonight, but as the old saying goes, you can run, but you can't hide. There are too many of my colleagues who have been helpful and good on this issue before—as I said, before Citizens United. If we look at the Republican Senate activity on climate change before Citizens United and after, it is like looking at a heart attack. We see steady activity until Citizens United, and then it is a flat line. Citizens United, dark money, polluter money has done as much damage polluting our democracy as they have done polluting our planet. But we are going to continue to do something about it, and the American public not only is with us, they are going to insist on it.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GASPEE DAYS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am so glad to have you here because a recurring tradition on the Senate floor is about to take place, and it is always particularly good for a Senator from Rhode Island to have a Senator from Massachusetts presiding while I talk about this.

Today I am here to recognize and celebrate one of the earliest acts of defiance against the British Crown in our great American struggle for independence. Most Americans remember the Boston Tea Party as one of the major events building up to the American Revolution. We learned the story of spirited Bostonians—and when I say ''spirited,'' I mean that in several senses; I gather that spirits had been served to those Bostonians before they embarked on this adventure—clambering onto the decks of the East India Company's ships and dumping bales of tea into Boston Harbor as a protest of British ''taxation without representation,'' which was a fine and worthy stunt, and I am certainly not here to defend taxation without representation.

However, there is a milestone on the path to revolution that is frequently overlooked, and it is the story of 60 brave Rhode Islanders who challenged British rule more than a year before that Tea Party in Boston, and they did a little bit more than throw tea bags overboard. So every year I honor those little known Rhode Island heroes who risked their lives in defiance of oppression 1 dark night more than 240 years ago.

In the years before the Revolutionary War, as tensions with the American Colonies grew, King George III stationed revenue cutters, armed customs patrol vessels, along the American coast. They were there to prevent smuggling, to enforce the payment of taxes, and to impose the authority of the Crown.

One of the most notorious of these ships was the HMS Gaspee. Its captain, Lieutenant William Duddingston, was known for destroying fishing vessels, seizing cargo, and flagging down ships only to harass, humiliate, and interrogate the colonials.

Outraged by this egregious abuse of power, the merchants and shipmasters of Rhode Island flooded civil and military officials with complaints about the Gaspee, exhausting every diplomatic and legal means to stir the British Crown to regulate Duddingston's conduct.

Not only did British officials ignore the Rhode Islanders' concerns; they responded with open hostility. The commander of the local British fleet, ADM John Montagu, warned that anyone who dared attempt acts of resistance or retaliation against the Gaspee would be taken into custody and hanged as a pirate, which brings us to June 9, 1772, 242 years ago.

Rhode Island ship captain Benjamin Lindsey was en route to Providence from Newport, in his ship the Hannah, when he was accosted and ordered to yield for inspection by the Gaspee. Captain Lindsey ignored the Gaspee's command and raced away up Narragansett Bay—despite warning shots fired by the Gaspee. As the Gaspee gave chase, Captain Lindsey knew a little something about Narragansett Bay and he knew a little something about the Hannah. He knew that she was lighter and drew less water than the Gaspee. So he sped north toward Pawtuxet Cove, toward the shallow waters off Namquid Point. His Hannah shot over the shallows there, but the heavier Gaspee grounded and stuck firm. The British ship and her crew were caught stranded in a falling tide, and it would be many hours before a rising tide could free the hulking Gaspee.

Presented with that irresistible opportunity, Captain Lindsey continued on his course to Providence and there enlisted the help of John Brown, a respected merchant from one of the most prominent Providence families. The two men rallied a group of Rhode Island patriots at Sabin's Tavern, in what is now the east side of Providence. So perhaps something the Bostonians at the Tea Party and the Rhode Islanders at the Gaspee had in common was spirits. Together, the group resolved to put an end to the Gaspee's threat to Rhode Island waters.

That night, the men, led by Captain Lindsey and Abraham Whipple—later to become a commander in the Revolutionary navy—embarked in eight longboats quietly down Narragansett Bay. They encircled the Gaspee, and they called on Lieutenant Duddingston to surrender his ship. Duddingston refused and ordered his men to fire upon anyone who tried to board.

Undeterred, the Rhode Islanders forced their way onto the Gaspee's deck—in a hail of oaths and sword clashes and musketfire—and Lieutenant Duddingston fell with a musket ball in the midst of the struggle. Right there in the waters of Warwick, RI, the very first blood in the conflict that was to become the American Revolution was drawn.

As the patriots commandeered the ship, Brown ordered one of his Rhode Islanders, a physician named John Mawney, to head to the ship's captain's cabin and tend to Duddingston's wound—a humane gesture in their moment of victory to help a man who had threatened to open fire on them only moments before.

Brown and Whipple took the captive English crew back to shore and then returned to the Gaspee to rid Narragansett Bay of her despised presence once and for all. They set her afire. The blaze spread through the ship, and ultimately to the ship's powder magazine, which went off with an explosion like fireworks, the blast echoing through the night across the bay, the flash lighting the sea up like daylight, and fragments of the ship splashing down into the water all around.

The site of this audacious act is now named Gaspee Point in honor of these brave Rhode Islanders. So I come again here to share this story and to commemorate this night so many years ago—June 9, 1772—and the names of Benjamin Lindsey, John Brown, and Abraham Whipple, and those men not known to history who fought beside them that night.

The Gaspee Affair, as it was called, generated furor in the British Government, which appointed a royal commission of inquiry based in Newport to gather evidence for indictment. The indicted men were then to be sent to England for trial.

Well, not so fast. Rhode Island's colonial charter guaranteed its citizens the right to a trial in the vicinity in which the crime was alleged to have occurred. And beyond that, these Rhode Islanders presumed they were entitled to the

same rights as Englishmen in their mother country. Some went so far to say that this proposal to try them overseas violated ancient rights outlined in the Magna Carta.

This breach of the rights that colonists believed were enshrined in the British Constitution created continent-wide uproar. Young members of Virginia's House of Burgesses, such as Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry, yearning to protest, pushed the body to create a committee of correspondence to gather information from around the Colonies concerning the British Parliament's actions, while also urging other Colonies to do the same. By December 1773, 11 Colonies had set up committees of correspondence. These committees played a vital role in enflaming discontent. They were the first permanent modes of communication among the Thirteen Colonies and allowed abuses by Parliament to be quickly known throughout the Colonies.

John Allen, a little-known visiting minister in the Second Baptist Church in Boston, gave a sermon on the Gaspee Affair. It went the revolutionary equivalent of viral—widely published. In this sermon, Allen rejected the proposition that Parliament had a right to tax and enforce laws like the ones implicated in the Gaspee Affair on Americans without the consent of their colonial representatives—a position that would come to define colonial discontent and reverberates to this day through the slogan ''no taxation without representation.''

Allen concluded his sermon with the provoking and revolutionary question whether the British King had a right to rule over America in the first place. Reverend Allen asserted there was no parliamentary right to reign as in Britain, nor a right by conquest, as the American colonists had only signed compacts with the Crown for protection of their religious and civil rights. Allen espoused Enlightenment ideals of social compacts and political rights, stating that if the British Government enacted laws that were oppressive to the rights of American colonists, as it had with the creation of a commission of inquiry intending to send the Gaspee raiders to England for trial, then it lost its right to rule over them.

The sermon was published eight separate times in three different colonial cities and spread widely through the Colonies. Through that, the Gaspee Affair sparked in the minds of Americans ideas about parliamentary abuses and the King's right to rule that would seed a spirit of discontent and eventually boil over into revolution. The sermon, along with fiery editorials published in the wake of the affair, inspired colonial leaders to speak openly about the British Government's abuses, instigating conflict that would culminate in the battles of Lexington and Concord.

The Gaspee Affair galvanized colonial discontent and led to greater unity among the Thirteen Colonies. After Rhode Islanders defiantly set fire to the Gaspee, the American Colonies came together for a common cause for the first time in their history, a formative step in the birth of our new Nation.

I know these events, and the patriots whose efforts allowed for their success, are not forgotten in my home State. Over the years, I have enjoyed marching in the annual Gaspee Days Parade through Warwick, RI, as every year we recall the courage and zeal of these men who fired the first shots that drew the first blood in that great contest for the freedoms we enjoy today.

They set a precedent for future patriots to follow, including those in Boston who more than 1 year later would have their tea party. But do not forget, as my home State prepares once again to celebrate the anniversary of the Gaspee incident, Massachusetts colonists threw tea bags off the deck of their British ship. We blew ours up and shot its captain more than 1 year earlier. We are little in Rhode Island, but as Lieutenant Duddingston discovered, we pack a punch.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NEVADA'S MISS USA—NIA SANCHEZ

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have to be honest. Last night I was flipping around—the NBA, the game of the week, the Red Sox playing Detroit, and the Tony awards. But also, Miss USA was going on. I have to acknowledge, I watched a little bit but not a lot of each. But I watched them all. I am disappointed that I caved in and watched the final of the Miss USA contest, because Miss Nevada won, and I would have liked to have seen that. I placed a call to her, and I will talk to her as soon as she gets out of the clouds, where I am sure she is now. But I congratulate the newly crowned Miss USA, Nevada's own Nia Sanchez.

What a story she has. This woman was homeless and spent a good part of her young days in a shelter. She is an exceptional Nevadan. She is gifted beyond her physical beauty. She holds a fourth-degree black belt in tae kwon do and is a certified instructor in the martial arts. When she is not practicing tae kwon do in her own studio, she is fighting on behalf of abused women. She volunteers at Shade Tree, a shelter for abused women. We are proud of Shade Tree.

So I, along with all Nevadans, congratulate Miss USA Nia Sanchez on her well-deserved victory. I wish her the very best as she pursues the crown of Miss Universe and undertakes her duties as a global ambassador.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BISHOP McGUINNESS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

• Mr. BURR. Madam President, I wish to congratulate the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School boys tennis team for securing the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 1A dual tennis championship. The team proved that hard work pays off by finishing the season 15 to 1 in dual matches.

With the expertise and positive influence of head coach Bob Weckworth and associate head coach Benny Jones, these young men achieved a well-deserved victory.

Winning a State championship is a testament to hard work and dedication. They displayed pride and sportsmanship throughout the season.

I join the students, teachers, friends and family of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High in congratulating Ben Jandzinski, Andrew Balogh, Alek Bissell, Jonathan Ingram, Zack Jones, Max Kreber, Sam McLaughry, Jesse Russell, Will Shannon, John Valle, Lance Dittrich, Adam Chinnasami, Jared Russell, Justin Russell and Dickson Tam on their hard-earned championship.•

REMEMBERING DR. VINCENT HARDING

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Madam President, I wish to commemorate the life of Dr. Vincent Harding, a prominent civil rights leader, beloved professor and proud Coloradan, who passed away on May 19, 2014. Although Dr. Harding is no longer with us, his presence lives on through the lasting influence of his life's work. Thanks to Dr. Harding and the countless others who took part in the civil rights movement, we have made great strides in the pursuit of equality for all through landmark legislation and advocacy. His passing also reminds us of the ongoing struggle for equal rights in America and moves us to continue this fight in his honor.

A devout believer in the power of social activism, Dr. Harding moved from Harlem, NY to Georgia in the early 1960s to join the American civil rights movement. He traveled the South to assist with anti-segregation campaigns, and he and his wife, Rosemarie Freeney Harding, founded the Mennonite House, an interracial service center and gathering place for individuals active in the movement. Through this work, Dr. Harding met friend and co-activist, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for whom he became an aide and speechwriter. Following Dr. King's death, Dr. Harding went on to serve as the first director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center.

In addition to his life-long commitment to promoting and protecting civil rights through writings and advocacy, Dr. Harding served as a beloved professor to thousands of students at universities around the country, including spending over three decades with the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. It was there that he founded the Veterans of Hope Project to document the stories of other social justice leaders around the world and inspire future generations of committed activists.

In commemoration, we recognize the great work and sacrifices of Dr. Harding and the many Americans who stand up for what is right every day—even when doing so brings its share of risks and challenges. Appropriately, this coming July we will proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—a victory for all Americans and one that would not have been possible without the resolve of Dr. Harding, Dr. King and other advocates who devoted their lives to ending discrimination. While we continue our fight against persistent oppression in America, we can look to the legacy of Dr. Harding for inspiration and acknowledge the strength and struggles of all those involved in the civil rights movement.

On behalf of a grateful nation and State, I take this time to express my deepest gratitude for Dr. Harding's contributions and my heartfelt condolences to all those who were touched by his life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6022. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Female Squash Flowers From Israel Into the Continental United States'' (RIN0579–AD72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Spirodiclofen; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9910–52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Imazapic; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction'' (FRL No. 9911–17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Flutriaful; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9910–38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sodium bisulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9910–50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6027. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013 Purchases from Foreign Entities''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6028. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of fourteen (14) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Biennial Core Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Reasonably Available Control Technology Update to Address Control Techniques Guidelines Issued in 2006, 2007, and 2008'' (FRL No. 9904–73–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6031. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation Implementation Plans; Kentucky; Approval of Revisions to the Jefferson County Portion of the Kentucky SIP; Emissions During Startups, Shutdowns, and Malfunctions'' (FRL No. 9911–96–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems'' (FRL No. 9909–99–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6033. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–047); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6034. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–013); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6035. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Detention of Drugs Intended for Human or Animal Use'' (Docket No. FDA–2013–N–0365) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6036. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Microbiology Devices; Reclassification of Nucleic Acid-Based Systems for Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex in Respiratory Specimens'' (Docket No. FDA–2013–N–0544) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6037. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–6038. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Burial Benefits'' (RIN2900–AO82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–245. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging Congress to fund mesothelioma research at the highest levels in the Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Bill by including $5.26 billion for the National Cancer Institute and $25 million for the Peer Reviewed Research Program as part of the Congressionally Mandated Research Program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM–246. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of

Michigan memorializing Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A–10 fleet; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 319

Whereas, The proposed U.S. Department of Defense budget would dramatically cut commissary services throughout the nation and eliminate the nation's A–10 fleet, including aircraft at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Selfridge currently is home to 18 A–10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and the more than 400 personnel related to that mission; and

Whereas, Our brave men and women in uniform benefit greatly from commissaries, and we should continue to provide them as part of their service. Slashing the commissary budget would likely lead to the closing of commissary stores at military installations throughout the nation. Commissary stores currently provide military families an affordable and convenient location to shop for groceries and other necessities. The U.S. Defense Commissary Agency found that commissaries save shoppers an average of 30.5 percent annually compared to off-base options; and

Whereas, The proposed cuts would have a dramatic effect on the lives and morale of the dedicated men and women who choose to serve our country at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and other U.S. military bases. The elimination of the A–10 fleet would place in jeopardy more than 400 jobs at Selfridge alone. Closing commissaries would increase living expenses for military families, essentially helping to balance the defense budget at the expense of the men and women who serve; and

Whereas, In Michigan, these proposed cuts would have immeasurable impacts on Macomb County and the local communities surrounding the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. For nearly a century, the base has been a source of community pride, local jobs, and local revenue as well as a key component of disaster response for the entire state and a vital base for our nation's homeland security; and

Whereas, The A–10 fleet should not be eliminated until replacement aircraft can be assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The proposed cuts would compound past, short-sighted decisions to transfer the A–10 aircraft to Selfridge despite the knowledge that these aircraft would be phased out. These decisions have made Selfridge vulnerable to closure in future Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. Assigning replacement aircraft would not only maintain the viability of this important base for homeland security, but would also be cost-effective: the Air National Guard can operate aircraft at about half the cost of an active duty unit: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A–10 fleet; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–247. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of the 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, established in the year 1932, the Barksdale Air Force Base, a United States Air Force Base located approximately 4.72 miles east-southeast of Bossier City, Louisiana, is named in honor of World War I aviator and test pilot 2nd Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale (1896–1926); and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has proudly served Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas and is home to the Air Force's newest command, Air Force Global Strike Command, the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Mission Support Group, 2nd Operations Group, 2nd Maintenance Group, the 2nd Medical Group, 8th Air Force Museum, and the Air Force Reserve's 917th Wing; and

Whereas, the Red Horse unit, officially known as the 307th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, is a construction unit staffed with civil engineers, many of whom deployed to southwest Asia during the fall; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has grown into a major source of revenue and employment for the region by providing jobs for nearly ten thousand military and civilian employees; and

Whereas, under the Defense Department's 2015 proposed spending plan, the 307th Red Horse Squadron would be deactivated as the Air Force Reserve's authorized strength would nationally decrease by almost five percent, to 61,700 airmen; and

Whereas, under the 2015 defense spending plan, the Air Force Reserve would lose the rest of the Air Force Reserve's venerable fleet of A–10s, which are Cold War-era aircraft known as Warthogs; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base continues to be a huge priority for national security and for communities in the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the deactivation of the 307th Red Horse Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base will have an adverse effect on not only the economy, but the community as well: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–248. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing those serving in the National Guard with veteran status; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, the National Guard's roots date back to 1636, when colonial militias made up of ordinary citizens would put down their plows and pick up weapons to protect families and towns from hostile attacks; and

Whereas, commonly known as citizen-soldiers, members of today's National Guard hold civilian jobs or attend college while maintaining their military training part-time, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas, while the National Guard originally focused on protecting local communities, it eventually grew into a force that complements the active-duty military when help is needed anywhere in the world, including serving overseas in combat-deployment roles; and

Whereas, although the National Guard's primary area of operation is the National Guard unit's home state, National Guard members are often called on by the President of the United States to respond to, among other things, homeland security missions, domestic emergencies, counterdrug efforts, and reconstruction missions in addition to overseas combat missions; and

Whereas, while many National Guard members have similar duties and perform similar functions to their counterparts in the active-duty military, Title 38, United States Code, excludes from the definition of veteran, career reserve-component members who have not served on active duty under Title 10, United States Code, for other than training purposes; and

Whereas, a portion of the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, or S. 944, would honor as veterans any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of Title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service''; and

Whereas, this cost-neutral provision would not bestow any benefits other than the honor of claiming veteran status for nearly 300,000 men and women who honorably served and sacrificed as career reserve-component members, giving these individuals the respect they deserve for their uniformed service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that Congress, including Hawaii's Congressional delegation, is urged to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing those, serving in the National Guard with veteran status; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2449. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. REID (by request):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the

United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Concerning the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 280

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 280, a bill to ensure effective control over the Congressional budget process.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1346

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1346, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the alternative tax liability limitation for small property and casualty insurance companies.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1971

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1971, a bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2169

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2169, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax regarding the taxation of distilled spirits.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. ENZI, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

S. 2285

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2285, a bill to help small businesses access capital and create jobs by reauthorizing the successful State Small Business Credit Initiative.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2362

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2362, a bill to prohibit the payment of performance awards in fiscal year 2015 to employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2373

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 2374

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to improve college affordability.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2393, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the protection and enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator

from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances.

S. 2432

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (by request):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Concerning the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 39

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress does favor the proposed agreement for cooperation transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2014.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing to receive testimony on '' Indian Education Series: Examining Higher Education for American Indian Students.'' Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting to consider the following bills: S. 919, A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; S. 1447, A bill to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; S. 1574, A bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; S. 2041, A bill to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes; S. 2188, A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1948, A bill to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program; S. 1998, A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy; and S. 2299, A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. 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 9, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Border Security: Examining the Implications of S. 1691, The Border Patrol Pay Reform Act of 2013.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kristie Johnson, an intern in Senator HEINRICH's office, be granted privileges of the floor for today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, with the concurrence of the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 523; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2450

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I understand that S. 2450, introduced earlier today by Senators SANDERS, MCCAIN, and others, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2450) to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2014; 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 any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 734, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, under the previous order, there will be one vote at 10 a.m., two votes at noon, followed by a recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings, and then three additional votes at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:23 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

CARY DOUGLAS PUGH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ROBERT ALLEN WHERRY, JR., RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JANE D. HARTLEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM J. BENDER

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on June 9, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

JEFFREY A. MURAWSKY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE ROBERT A. PETZEL, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 5, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE MARIN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Marin Shakespeare Company on the occasion of the organization's 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 31, 2014.

For the last twenty-five years, the Marin Shakespeare Company has worked to achieve excellence in the staging and study of Shakespearean plays, to celebrate Shakespeare, and to serve as a cultural and educational resource for the people of Marin, the San Francisco Bay Area, and beyond. Through programs such as Will Power and Play Power, Actor Intern Program, and various summer camps, the Marin Shakespeare Company has helped foster an appreciation and love of performing arts throughout the community and will continue to benefit Marin County for many years to come.

The Marin Shakespeare Company is a community treasure, and Marin County has benefitted greatly from this organization's many years of experiencing, studying, and performing Shakespeare. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to the Marin Shakespeare Company, and congratulations on 25 years of service.

RECOGNIZING MR. LEWIS DRISKELL, SR. FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATED COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Lewis Driskell, Sr., a community leader in the City of Flint with more than 50 years of experience in the printing profession.

Mr. Driskell graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1955 with many awards to his credit, including the "Most Outstanding Student in Graphic Arts" from the Mercantile Paper Company. Following gradation he relocated to Flint and worked with three major printing establishments before forming his own company, Union Printing.

Mr. Driskell is driven by a strong belief of giving service to his community. In 1969 he was elected president of Flint Printers Local 282. In 1989, he received the State of Michigan's "Outstanding Minority Business Entrepreneur" Award and the "Sydney B. Melet Humanitarian Award". In addition, in 1990, he received the Charles Stewart Mott "Citizen of the Year" Award from the Flint Chamber of Commerce and the Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Club of Flint.

His caring is further exemplified in the number of organizations for which he served as a policy maker. These organizations include: The Urban League of Flint, Greater Flint Opportunities Industrialization Center, Hurley Hospital Authority, Uptown Reinvestment, Planned Parenthood, Career Alliance, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and as founder of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, his lifetime commitments, national and international are to: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Rotary International, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Tuskegee University Alumni Club—Flint Chapter.

Now retired, Lewis enjoys spending time with his wife, Lois, their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Lewis Driskell for his strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

CONGRATULATING RICK JASCULA AND JIM TERMAN

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rick Jascula and Jim Terman of Jascula Terman Strategic Communications, who have been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Publicity Club of Chicago (PCC), the premier communications industry association in the region.

When they began their business, Jascula had worked as a lead advance man for President Jimmy Carter and Terman for Vice-President Walter Mondale. Together, they built their company from the ground up, and have been serving clients for more than 30 years. Jascula Terman is now a leader in public relations, specializing in public affairs, event management, crisis communications and digital strategies. Their reputation is rightly one to be respected. Rick and Jim are not only leaders in their field, but also in in our greater Illinois community and they are truly deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to again congratulate Rick Jascula and Jim Terman for their remarkable achievements. I am very grateful for the wonderful services that they provide for our community and so thankful that I am able to call them friends.

RECOGNIZING DEAN JOHN PIKE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dean John Pike and his accomplishments as the director of University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. As Dean Pike embarks on his retirement, I offer my deepest gratitude and commend him for dedicating most of his professional life to helping the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension fulfill its mission. Dean Pike received his Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and Ph.D. from the place he loves and has served so well, the University of New Hampshire. A lifelong New Hampshire resident, Dean Pike joined Cooperative Extension in 1977 and has served an Extension educator, state program leader, and associate director prior to his appointment as dean and director in 1998.

Dean John Pike is truly passionate about the University of New Hampshire and the Cooperative Extension. In fact, he attributes his success to his steadfast belief in the mission of Cooperative Extension: "to enhance the ability of New Hampshire citizens to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families, and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy." Dean Pike's dedication to the University of New Hampshire is widely known and the Dean is well-respected by citizens, volunteers, and elected officials throughout the state for his staunch support of University of New Hampshire. His leadership will be missed by many.

In his years as Dean and Director, John Pike has served on many University of New Hampshire committees for the greater good of the institution. He has been active in the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and served as a past chair of the Deans and Directors for the twelve Northeast States and District of Columbia. As Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension from 1986 to 1998, Dean Pike was instrumental in providing support to major legislative committees focused on the future of the organization.

As an Extension educator from 1977 to 1982, Dean Pike developed several innovative youth development programs, including an environmental education center and a nationally-recognized program to assist out-of-school, low income, and unemployed youth secure employment in the private sector. Furthermore, as a state program leader from 1982 to 1986, Dean Pike provided leadership for the implementation of a comprehensive 4-H program review, resulting in the restructuring of state 4-H positions and redirection of efforts in program development. In a show of his dedication to New Hampshire families, Dean Pike

was confirmed by the New Hampshire Governor and Executive Council as a board member of the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families, and was elected chair of the board in the mid-1980s.

Dean Pike's service to the Granite State has extended far beyond the University. He has served as a parochial school board member, mediator for a youth diversion program, member of his local recreation commission, youth sports coach, and as a commissioner for the Dover Housing Authority. In 1986, Pike was aptly awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Extension Agents Association.

I congratulate Dean Pike for his distinguished career and thank him for his dedication to serving the people of New Hampshire. Dean Pike's service to the University, the Cooperative Extension, and our state has impacted generations of New Hampshire leaders and his legacy will continue to inspire Granite Staters for years to come.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chair, Congresswoman ESTY has introduced a common sense amendment to inhibit gun trafficking along the Southwest Border.

Her amendment seeks to strike Section 539, which prohibits the necessary funding required for federally licensed firearms dealers to report to DOJ when they sell multiple rifles or shotguns to the same person. This requirement applies to dealers in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas due to their proximity to Mexico. Nearly 80% of Mexico's illegal firearms are imported illegally from the U.S.

Gun traffickers frequently buy multiple guns at one time and then resell them to prohibited persons. Section 539 blocks ATF's ability to track the bulk buying of assault rifles in those border states.

Eliminating this key reporting requirement opens the door wide for criminals, and those who would normally not pass a background check, to obtain a gun. Each year nearly 12,000 gun murders are committed by people who have no legal right to a gun. I applaud Congresswoman ESTY for introducing the amendment to strike the language, thus curbing gun trafficking and allowing ATF to properly do its job.

We need to strike negative gun riders from CJS legislation, like section 539. I lend my support to this amendment and to Congresswoman ESTY and I hope you do, as well.

HONORING MARK SHAINKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Houses of Worship have played a major role in our communities, offering solace, support, and moral guidance to those in need, thanks to the selfless efforts of members like Mark Shainker.

For over 20 years, Mark has volunteered his time and talent to Temple Israel of New Rochelle to make it a more meaningful place of worship, education and friendship. His service to Temple Israel is truly inspiring. A member of the Board of Trustees, Mark also serves as the Youth Advisor Chair, Brotherhood President, and is a religious school teacher. He has served on numerous committees including clergy searches and clergy transitions.

Mark is perhaps best known for his leadership roles with children's programing, such as the Purim Carnivals, wacky game days and other events. He's also organized several programs and events that benefit both the congregation and the broader community, such as trips to Sammy's and Christmas at the Temple, all of which has earned Mark the affectionate name, "Temple Camp Counselor."

A long-time New Rochelle resident, Mark is an accountant and partner in the accounting firm Shainker & Shainker. Mark and his wife Phyllis are blessed with two children, Stephanie and Barry.

I am pleased to acknowledge Mark Shainker for his many contributions to Temple Israel of New Rochelle. It is a pleasure to celebrate a man who has made a big difference in the Jewish community, as well as greater New Rochelle.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AKIVA HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a significant milestone in the history of Akiva Hebrew Day School in Southfield, Michigan—the school's 50th Anniversary of providing education to Greater Detroit's Jewish community.

Founded in 1964, Akiva was created by a dedicated group of educators who sought to provide the Jewish community in Metropolitan Detroit with a school that provided its students with a comprehensive academic curriculum, while deepening their connection to their faith and heritage. Today, Akiva offers an outstanding academic program for children from nursery school through high school, while providing complementary curricula that foster a love for their Jewish heritage, the State of Israel, and a deep commitment to a way of life that values the lessons of the Torah.

To support the ability of its students to achieve their maximum intellectual potential, Akiva provides them with a core academic curriculum that promotes the development of critical thinking and effective studying skills. Among the course offerings for students are an array of Advanced Placement level classes, as well as courses that support preparing them for higher education.

As part of this commitment to its students' education, Akiva is constantly revising and fine-tuning its programming at all phases in its students' development. Under the leadership of Rabbi Tzvi Klugerman, Akiva has recently made changes to its kindergarten reading program to promote both bilingualism and improved phonics skills during the earliest stages of development. Additionally, Akiva has implemented the ROAR program in its elementary school, to reinforce positive learning strategies among its students early in their academic careers. In its middle school, Akiva is providing an enhanced math program, and, in its high school, Akiva has added more Advanced Placement courses.

As a significant component of its curriculum, Akiva provides its students with a strong coursework of Judaic studies, which promotes the students' connection to their cultural heritage, faith, and the community—both locally and globally. Through a strong connection to their culture, Akiva students continue to take an active role in fostering the unique relationship between the United States and Israel, with many graduated students spending a year in Israel after high school. By practicing the tenants of their faith, Akiva students have supported a number of local non-profit organizations, like the Yad Ezra food pantry, the Friendship Circle and Yachad, which assist those who are experiencing moments of challenge in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, again, it is my pleasure to rise and recognize the outstanding leaders, educators and students of Akiva Hebrew Day School as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this great educational institution. Akiva programs are providing its students with a broad array of experiences both inside and outside the classroom which are preparing them to be future leaders, as well as supporting the special connection between the United States and Israel. It has been my pleasure to be partner with Akiva and to interact with its students. I look forward to the incredible impact that Akiva will continue to make as its faculty and staff guide future generations in their development.

RECOGNIZING THE MOUNT WASHINGTON OBSERVATORY ON THE OPENING OF THE EXTREME MOUNT WASHINGTON MUSEUM

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Hampshire's Mount Washington Observatory and its new Extreme Mount Washington Museum. The Mount Washington Observatory first established the observation center on the summit of Mount Washington in 1870 and operated there until 1892. This effort marked the first time a scientific observation center was located on the summit of a mountain. The observatory was re-opened in 1932 when a group of enthusiastic individuals recognized the value of collecting scientific data at the summit. This re-emergence came just in time, because in

1934, the highest wind speed ever observed by man was recorded at 231 miles per hour at the summit of Mount Washington. Given the breadth and importance of the data and observations, the Mount Washington Observatory opened its mountaintop museum in 1973 to provide educational opportunities to the public.

Over the past four decades, the Observatory's mountaintop museum has established itself as a world-class resource for science education. Each year, more than 100,000 visitors come to the museum to get a taste of the world's worst weather. Starting this summer, visitors will benefit from an enhanced experience at the state's most visited museum with the development of the Observatory's aptly named Extreme Mount Washington experience. This project, which will be officially unveiled this month, represents the largest and most significant undertaking by the Observatory in decades.

Today, I recognize this major accomplishment by the Mount Washington Observatory and share in their excitement as they reopen the museum for Extreme Mount Washington. Extreme Mount Washington is an interactive, hands-on experience that will provide visitors with an unparalleled window into Mount Washington's extreme conditions.

In keeping with New Hampshire tradition, this significant project was made possible through the collaborative efforts and generosity of over 400 individuals and organizations, and I commend them for their support. Moreover, the Gladys Brooks Foundation, Putnam Foundation, Public Service of New Hampshire and Northeast Utilities Foundation, Jane's Trust, and the Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation all deserve special recognition for their significant contributions to the project.

As a lifelong resident of the Granite State, Mount Washington represents the playground of the North Country that was a critical part of my formative years. Even now, a painting of Mount Washington hangs in my Washington office, providing a taste of New Hampshire for all who visit me in our nation's capital. I am thrilled that the Extreme Mount Washington experience will make this larger-than-life symbol more accessible to all who visit our state.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in humble gratitude to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

"Operation Overlord," as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin. With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France, they just did not know when or where. So in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery. Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just off shore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France. And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way on to and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War. And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace. With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

> Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.
>
> Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.
>
> They will need Thy blessings.
>
> For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.
>
> They fight not for the lust of conquest.
>
> They fight to end conquest.
>
> They fight to liberate.
>
> They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.
>
> They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high. U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians. German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

But the operation was a success. More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day+5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces to let them know that they were about to embark upon the "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world were upon you."

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely." But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, full justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in [their] courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won and a world was saved for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg. There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

And it is equally fitting and proper that we remember D-Day. And that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the world could remain free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 271, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING NATALY AND STEPHEN NEUWIRTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, religious institutions such as Young Israel of New Rochelle (YINR) play a critical role in ensuring the voices of our community's most vulnerable residents do not go unheard, thanks to the selfless dedication of individuals like Nataly and Stephen Neuwirth. For more than a decade, the Neuwirths have worked to sustain a community built on charity, tolerance and empathy.

Nataly and Stephen are Guests of Honor at Young Israel of New Rochelle's 47th Annual Dinner, and observing their dedicated and steadfast commitment community service, it is easy to see why as Young Israel of New Rochelle chose to honor this couple.

The Neuwirths became active members of the New Rochelle community immediately after moving to the area 11 years ago. They are the proud parents of four sons: Oren, Ely, Benny and Emmanuel. In spite of their busy family life, have found time and energy to give back to the community they love.

Law is a demanding profession, yet Stephen has found the time to serve on the Young Israel New Rochelle Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2011 and led recently a successful effort to retire YINR's mezzanine loan.

Nataly has also been a steadfast member of the YINR community. She's a generous participant of the Women's League where she prepares meals for new mothers, packs YINR's Mischloach Manot and supports the Mikvah Bake Sale.

Nataly and Stephen have also devoted themselves to the cultural growth of the New Rochelle community, supporting YINR's shul and mikvah, sponsoring and hosting scholars in residence, and Shabbat onegs. In the past year both Nataly and Stephen dedicated the new publication, Chumash Mesoras Harav at YINR.

Their exceptional devotion, however, is not limited to the New Rochelle community. Nataly and Stephen have also given time, support and involvement in the important affairs of neighboring communities, most notably Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy. The pair has also participated in the Jarden Westchester triathlon as members of ''Skippy's team,'' to raise awareness for the fight against leukemia.

Nataly and Stephen are exemplary members of the New Rochelle community. Their service and dedication is not only admirable, but their boundless energy and commitment to furthering causes close to them is truly exceptional.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 350th anniversary of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, a scenic and vibrant coastal town in southeastern Massachusetts.

Dartmouth was originally settled in the 1650s by the Religious Society of Friends, also known as the Quakers, a group that had been banned from Plymouth Colony on account of its religious doctrines. The town's official incorporation came in 1664. The Quakers have been long known for their refusal to participate in war, their opposition to slavery, and their belief in the priesthood of all followers, and remain an important part of Dartmouth's culture today.

In its early years, Dartmouth was mostly an agricultural, whaling, and shipping settlement. Its most famous whaling ship was the HMS *Dartmouth*, which is more famously known for being the first ship targeted in the Boston Tea Party. The *Dartmouth* set sail to London in 1773 with a cargo of whale oil, returning to Boston with a ship full of tea from the East India Trading Company. Luckily for the American ship owners, only the tea was destroyed. The protestors even swept the decks clean after the protest.

Today, this South Shore town maintains its rural charm, continuing to attract vacationers to its picturesque coast. Many portions of Dartmouth have changed very little in the past hundred years, serving as important historical sites.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the town of Dartmouth and the entire Dartmouth community on the celebration of their 350th anniversary. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUCSON YMCA

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the YMCA located in my district in Tucson, Arizona.

Since 1914, the YMCA of Southern Arizona has been strengthening the Tucson community by fostering physical, mental and social development. From the original modest site at the corner of Congress and Court Streets in Downtown Tucson, the Y began developing programs for young men.

In 1948 the YMCA's Triangle Y Camp was established in the Catalina Mountains, and in the 1950s and 60s, new locations included a central branch, the Lighthouse YMCA, a south branch, the Mulcahy YMCA and the Ott Family YMCA on the east side. The YMCA Foundation was established in 1973, and today has a $3.5 million professionally managed asset fund. New locations continued with the Lohse Family YMCA in 1992 and the Northwest Community Center in 2002. In the last decade, many of the locations have been improved and expanded to better serve community needs.

Today, the Y has five amazing branches that incorporate the tenets of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The YMCA of Southern Arizona has developed hundreds of programs. From sports, aquatics and camp activities that help kids, youth and seniors to child care, military support and family services—there is no limit to their inclusiveness for our community as they serve 200,000 participants each year.

As we look to the future, the Y will continue to provide programs and services for adults, children and families.

I am proud to honor their 100-year legacy and anticipate the great things they will provide in the next century.

HONORING DR. EDWARD W. WRIGHT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Edward W. Wright. Known throughout the Bay Area as a physician, mentor, active community member, and devoted husband and father, Mr. Wright has left an indelible mark on our community. With his passing on May 29, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on June 2, 1922 in Fayette, Howard County, Missouri, Dr. Edward Wright was the fourth child born to William Marion Wright and Lunie K. Cameron. When Dr. Wright was five years old, he caught scarlet fever and was hospitalized for a long period of time. At this young age, Dr. Wright was inspired to become a doctor. He later moved to El Paso, Texas to live with his aunt and uncle after losing both of his parents in an unfortunate tragedy. In El Paso, he graduated Douglas High School with honors, and he then went on to attend Sam Houston College in Austin, Texas. In 1943, Dr. Wright graduated Magna Cum Laude as a Pre-Medical student with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

In 1945, Dr. Edward Wright attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he partook in an accelerated program in Internal Medicine. At the age of 25, he graduated with honors and went on to complete his residency at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. He became Chief Resident and served as a full-time staff physician until 1955.

Dr. Edward Wright and his family relocated to California in 1955, where Dr. Wright served as a Medical Officer for the Armed Forces at Fort Ord. After he completed his service, they relocated to Oakland, where Dr. Wright began a private practice in December 1958. Seven years later, he established and built a medical facility to serve families throughout Oakland.

In addition to his prolific career, Dr. Wright was an active member in the community. He volunteered at the East Oakland Boys Club, providing physical exams, counseling and financial assistance for camperships and uniforms. For the next 40 years, Dr. Wright served as a physician, mentor and father-figure to more than 1,200 boys at the North and East Oakland Boys Clubs. Dr. Wright was also active with the Oakland Chapter of the Lions Club, providing countless hours of Loyal Lions Service.

In 1969, he joined the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club and then served as President of the Board from 1980 to 1982. He was presented with the Man and Boy Trophy Award for his work with the Boys and Girls Clubs in 1964. Later, he received the Boys and Girls Clubs Service Award Medallion and then was honored during a formal tribute in 2000 at the First Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

On a personal note, I have known Dr. Wright, or ''Piggy'' as my mother, Mildred Massey, called him, since I was a child. He and my mother attended school together and were very close. We loved ''Piggy'' and will miss him tremendously. He was one of my

earliest supporters when I first ran for public office in 1989 and, for that, I am deeply grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Dr. Edward W. Wright. As an Oakland resident, Dr. Wright's contributions have truly impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Edward's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER WARHAWKS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Warhawks, who won the NCAA Division III World Series on May 27, 2014. The Warhawks, led by pitcher Scott Plaza and Head Coach John Vodenlich, displayed a tremendous amount of grit, determination, skill, and athleticism throughout their outstanding 44–7 season, which culminated in a resounding 7-0 win over Emory University in the championship game. With this victory, the UW-Whitewater athletic program accomplished something no other NCAA team has ever done before: sweep the three major men's sports championships in one year.

The success of the UW-Whitewater baseball team has made the residents of Wisconsin proud and I salute the entire team: Daytona Bryden, Dylan Bersch, Jordan Kuczynski, Matt Langlie, Austin Jones, Colin Grove, Nick Kuhlmann, Hayden Fenner, Kyle Haen, Trey Cannon, Dylan Friend, Mike Nompleggi, Mikole Pierce, Austin Finn, Trent Diekvoss, Curtis Morgan, Donnie Manke, Steve Chamberlain, Jared Fon, Adam Gregory, Justin Mortensen, John Olejniczak, Mike Mierow, Brock Liston, Michael Gonzalez, Casey Power, Andrew Lowe, Connor Hurst, Scott Plaza, and Matt Roberts.

Winning a national championship is never easy. On behalf of my congressional office and my constituents in Wisconsin's fifth district, I commend the coaches and players at UW-Whitewater for their hard work and dedication, and wish them continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREAD FOR THE WORLD

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representatives JIM MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, FRANK WOLF of Virginia, XAVIER BECERRA of California, CHARLIE DENT of Pennsylvania, and MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio in recognition of Bread for the World's 40th anniversary. Bread for the World is a bipartisan Christian movement committed to ending hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1974 by the Rev. Arthur Simon, Bread for the World began as a small group of Catholics and Protestants who realized that mobilizing people of faith to influence U.S. policies can address the causes of and help to end hunger. Today, Bread for the World has grown in size and influence, with over 72,000 members, 5,500 congregations and more than 50 denominations. Bread for the World is now the largest grassroots advocacy network on hunger issues in the United States.

Each year, Bread for the World members across the country conduct an Offering of Letters in their church. But rather than an offering of money, it is an offering of hand-written letters to Congress on one policy issue that will affect hunger in the U.S. and around the world. This successful advocacy tool has helped make tremendous progress in eradicating hunger and poverty.

Over the last 40 years, the faith community has played a significant role, which has resulted in policies that strengthened our national nutrition programs; provided debt relief to the world's poorest countries; reduced child mortality rates worldwide; extended tax credits for low-income working families; and developed a national strategy for maternal and child nutrition.

Bread for the World strongly believes that, with political will, we can end hunger within our lifetime. We applaud and support Bread for the World's goal of making hunger a national priority.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in congratulating Bread for the World for 40 years of advocacy, and urge that its members continue to be a voice for years to come for those whom Scripture calls ''the least of these.''

HONORING JOSE PEIXOTO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, like many who came to our shores, Jose Peixoto moved to America in search of opportunities.

Jose Peixoto was born in the City of Braga, in the northernmost region of Portugal. The youngest of five children, Jose learned to value honest work and education. He joined the Portuguese Air Force when he was 17 years old, serving honorably for 3 years.

Jose arrived in Yonkers when he was just 23 years old. His wife Celeste and his children, Joe Jr. and Aurora, later followed. Today Jose is blessed to be the proud grandfather of five grandchildren: Sophia, Sabrina, Angelica, Gabriela and Monica.

Upon settling in Yonkers in 1967, Jose immediately began serving his community, quickly becoming a member of the Portuguese-American Community Center. Throughout his association with the Community Center, Jose has held a diverse range of challenging and important positions, but perhaps none more so than guiding the Center through the difficult transition period.

His legacy is literally within the foundations of the Portuguese-American Community Center. Jose was intricately involved in selling the old building, buying the land to build a new Center and leading efforts to raise money for its construction. Jose also played an important role in developing the Center's by-laws and negotiating its tax-free status. It is clear that little would have been achieved without his leadership and drive.

Jose has also been a keen supporter of other programs within the community. Jose and Celeste sponsor the Center's Folkloric Group, an important link to Portuguese traditions and culture. Jose has also served on the Center's Advisory Council and Scholarship Committee, along with many other ad hoc committees.

At every opportunity Jose has sought the opportunity to serve the community he cares so deeply for. He is a testament to what can be accomplished in the communities around the country when an individual puts the interests of others above themselves and works tirelessly for the betterment of our society.

It is clear that the Portuguese-American Community holds Jose Peixoto in high regard and I join them in thanking him for his steadfast commitment and enduring legacy of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL MARESCO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the accomplishments of Michael Maresco of Marshfield, Massachusetts, who has been named Marshfield Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Maresco, a resident of Marshfield since 1994, has been a vital member of the community for a long time. For nearly twenty years, Mr. Maresco has been involved in Community Christmas, a local organization that works to deliver presents to children in need during the holiday season. He serves as Vice President of the Marshfield Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, and he also leads Boy Scout Troop 212. Additionally, Mr. Maresco is deeply involved in both state and local government, having served three terms on the Marshfield Board of Selectmen and having worked in the office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State for over thirty years. Currently, Mr. Maresco serves as Chairman of the Marshfield Democratic Town Committee. A husband and father of two, Mr. Maresco is well-known throughout his community. The town of Marshfield is fortunate to have such a dedicated citizen, and his commitment to serving others serves as a valuable example for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Michael Maresco for his service in his community, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for all that he has done.

RECOGNIZING THE FIVE OUTSTANDING HONOREES AT THIS YEAR'S SEVENTH ANNUAL NORTH SHORE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five outstanding women who

have enriched our communities across five different sectors.

The Deerfield/Bannockburn/Riverwoods and Wilmette Chambers of Commerce joined together to host the seventh annual North Shore Women's Conference in the suburban Chicago district I represent. This year's honorees have each contributed in their unique ways to the strength and success of our communities, and each is well qualified and deserving of this recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize this year's five honorees: in the Corporate Sector, Joy Foster of Deerfields Bakery; in the Small Business category, Megan Quinlisk Van Treeck of The Irish Connoisseur; in the Entrepreneurial category, Adriane Johnson of Populus XP; in the Not For Profit category, Deb Guy of the Women's Exchange; in the Government category, Wendy Durkin, Battalion Chief of the Buffalo Grove Fire Department.

Each of these women exemplifies part of the spirit that makes the Tenth District an ideal place to start and raise a family as well as build and grow a business.

I am grateful for the dedicated work each of them does in our communities, and I am confident that this honor will mark the start of an even greater chapter of service to the community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MARIONNE ROBBINS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Ms. Marionne Robbins. I join her family members and friends from the Sabathani Community Center who gather in Minneapolis on July 1, 2014 to commemorate this special day.

Marionne was born on July 4, 1914, in Sioux City, Iowa. She was seven years old when her family moved to South Minneapolis in 1921, and she has remained here for the 93 years since then. She has one daughter, two grandchildren, one great grandchild, and one great great grandchild. Marionne enjoyed a successful career at Northern States Power Company in Minneapolis until her retirement in 1979 after 34 years of service.

After her retirement, Marionne became a wonderful community volunteer and an active participant in the Senior Center at Sabathani Community Center in South Minneapolis. For many years she has served as a "sunshine lady" visiting the sick and immobile seniors, traveling with the Willie Hale Travel Club, bowling with friends, and participating in events with the U-Meet-Us Seniors and Sabathani Senior Center.

Marionne is always looking for new ways to connect senior citizens, like creating the Senior Breakfast Club and founding the Sabathani Red Hat Society chapter in Minneapolis.

Marionne Robbins has led an outstanding life, highlighted by her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHY DUNSMUIR, RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 WILKES-BARRE DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of Kathy Dunsmuir, who was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Leadership Award at the Annual Dinner and Graduation of Leadership Wilkes-Barre on June 5, 2014. The dinner honored Leadership Wilkes-Barre's graduating class of 2014, marking 33 years of developing community leaders. Leadership Wilkes-Barre's mission focuses on both developing community leaders and fostering civic engagement.

Kathy has worked for PNC Bank for 37 years, where she currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Team Director. She is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Wilkes-Barre's Core program. Kathy stays involved in her community through participation in many area organizations. Kathy serves on the Board of Directors for the Wilkes-Barre Catholic Youth Center, Wyoming Valley Children's Association, Maternal & Family Service Association, and she will soon assume the Board Chairpersonship of the Osterhout Library. She is also a very active member of several committees, directing fundraisers and events for many area organizations such as the North Branch Land Trust, The Association for the Blind, Family Service Association, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, United Way of Luzerne County, Luzerne County Historical Society, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

I am proud to recognize Kathy for receiving this important award. Her tireless dedication to volunteer work sets a shining example for the Wilkes-Barre and northeastern Pennsylvania. Through her personal leadership, I am confident that she will continue serving as a pillar of our community. I thank her for her past work and look forward to her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SRIRAM HATHWAR

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, S-T-I-C-H-O-M-Y-T-H-I-A. Stichomythia.

Mr. Speaker, this is the word that Sriram Hathwar spelled correctly to win the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee. I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sriram on this incredible accomplishment.

Sriram, an eighth-grade student at the Alternative School for Math and Science in Corning, New York, participated in the National Spelling Bee this year for the fifth time. In his final year of eligibility, Sriram outlasted 279 other contestants and was declared co-champion after correctly spelling twelve "championship words." As he progressed through the competition, Sriram appeared unfazed by the increasingly difficult words that were presented to him. He displayed impressive levels of composure, confidence and determination throughout the competition, which propelled him to victory.

After diligently studying the roughly 470,000 words in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Sriram successfully spelled some of the most challenging words in the English language. The amount of preparation and training Sriram completed in preparation of this competition exemplifies his unrelenting dedication to learning.

In addition to his proficiency at spelling difficult words, Sriram's display of humility and sportsmanship throughout the competition was commendable. Upon being named co-champion, Sriram recognized his fellow contestants by stating that the competition was "against the dictionary, not against each other."

Sriram Hathwar is a source of inspiration within my congressional district and across the country. I am proud of his success in the Scripps National Spelling Bee and confident that he will build upon this experience to accomplish great things in the future.

HONORING DOCTORS WILLIAM W. HAYNIE AND CURTIS LONG

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two amazing men who have served Bates County for over fifty years as medical professionals. Dr. William Haynie and Dr. Curtis Long are loved and respected by all and have made an amazing difference in the lives of thousands of families in Missouri's 4th District.

Dr. Haynie began his career at Bates County Memorial Hospital in 1964. He has been a very active member of the medical staff and many committees within the hospital. He supervised the Laboratory, Medical/Surgery, and Rehabilitation services before serving as Chief of the Medical Staff for eight years. Dr. Haynie was recognized in 2012 by the Missouri State Medical Association for his 50 years of dedicated service as a Medical Doctor in the Bates County community. His always-positive attitude and selflessness to remain faithful to service for decades is deserving of praise.

Dr. Long began his practice in Butler, Missouri in 1964 where he has been a pillar in the community for over five decades. During his distinguished career he has operating from the same medical building performing more than 10,000 surgeries, delivering over 4,000 babies, and admitting over 50,000 patients. Additionally, he has been a leader for organized medicine groups, hospitals, banks, and churches within the community. I stand to recognize Dr. Long's passion for his practice and his community.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the service and commitment of Drs. Haynie and Long. Their steadfast and enduring service is a shining example for all. We are blessed to have such dedicated practitioners serving us, and they are certainly worthy of our recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 269, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOUGLAS JONES AT WELCOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Douglas Jones of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, as the congregation and the broader community celebrate his Twenty-fifth Pastoral Anniversary.

Throughout his tenure as the spiritual leader of the congregation at Welcome, Reverend Jones has approached his responsibilities with thoughtfulness and resolve for all of his congregation's members. From the very beginning of his tenure in 1989, Reverend Jones has focused on his congregation's future and in one of his first acts, took steps that allowed the church members to pay off Welcome's mortgage within his first three years. He also been keenly focused on the needs of Welcome's younger members and has established a number of ministries centered on catering to their needs. Furthermore, he has given special attention to members of his congregation facing moments of crisis in their lives—creating ministries that assist members with health and family emergencies.

The results of Reverend Jones' dedication are witnessed in the spiritual prosperity of the congregation at Welcome, which has grown both in membership from several hundred to more than four thousand, and in the deepening connection of its members to their faith.

In addition to the remarkable impact Reverend Jones has made at Welcome, he has engaged in endeavors that have affected the entire Pontiac community. As the founder of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition, Reverend Jones brought together stakeholders from across the different sectors of Pontiac to make positive changes in their community. Additionally, Reverend Jones is active in many other community organizations in Pontiac and beyond, including Pontiac Youth Assistance and Pontiac's Committee of 50, a gathering of community decision-makers that drives philanthropic efforts within the city. Reverend Jones' work also includes the establishment of a scholarship fund to help youth realize their dreams of higher education and programs that support youth during their primary education.

Because of Reverend Jones' leadership and endeavors at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church and within the Pontiac community, many residents have received support at critical moments in their lives and have seen the bonds within their neighborhoods strengthened. I know the congregation at Welcome must be proud of all Pastor Jones' accomplishments over his twenty-five year tenure as their spiritual leader. I am grateful for Reverend Jones' friendship and his leadership on many issues of importance to the Pontiac community and the Greater Detroit region. I wish Reverend Jones, First Lady JoAnn and their family continued happiness and success as they continue to serve their neighbors in Pontiac and the Greater Detroit community.

HONORING DOMINIC CECERE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, competitive sports allow youth to test their skills, while learning the importance of fair play and good sportsmanship. Dominic Cecere has spent 50 years coaching baseball at Eastchester High School. His joy for teaching and love of the game has inspired generations of youth.

Current and former athletes say he inspired them to give the game their all, which shows in the school's winning streak. Thanks to Dom's leadership, the Eastchester Eagles have won 15 league titles, six sectional titles and a regional championship. He has also traveled with players to Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Cuba.

A former rookie player for the New York Yankees, Dom also worked as a professional talent scout for the Cincinnati Reds, the Montreal Expos, and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Dom started coaching the Eastchester varsity baseball team in 1965. He was captain of the Varsity Baseball team at New York University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. He later earned a degree in Administration and a Master of Science in Physical Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Westchester County has recognized him as their coach of the year eight times and the New York Daily News has named him "New Coach of the Year" twice. Dom has also been honored by the New York State Coaches' Associations Award and the National H.S. Coaches Associations.

Dom was inducted into the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame in 2001, the Eastchester Hall of Fame in 2006, and now the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame.

A number of his former students have gone on to coach baseball too. They will be among those honoring Dom at the inaugural Dom Cecere tournament, which raises money for graduating seniors going to college.

I am pleased to honor Dominic Cecere for his contributions to Eastchester High School, as well as to America's great pastime. I am hopeful he will inspire another generation of young players.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE (LIFE) ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise (LIFE) Act, authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is to reduce overweight and obesity. The bill would provide $25 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar.

Despite rising consciousness of this epidemic, from television shows like "The Biggest Loser" and "Extreme Weight Loss" to a steady stream of diet books, the United States has startling rates of obesity among adults and children. In 2010, the CDC National Center for Health Statistics indicated that, since 1980, the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and the percentage of adolescents has tripled. Today, the 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The rising costs of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflect the epidemic. The consequences for children will follow them throughout their lives if we do not act quickly and decisively. If we are serious about controlling health care costs, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: overweight and obesity.

The bill seeks to provide the first national strategy to combat the epidemic by directing the CDC to: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and to educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be used in everyday life, such as in the workplace and in community settings. The legislation is the minimum necessary to address our most important health crisis. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S. and 60 percent of U.S. health care costs. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the U.S. was more than $117 billion in 2000. The CDC has highlighted a study that estimates the annual cost to be $147 billion. It is estimated that between 300,000 and 400,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor in the doubling of the percentage of overweight youth. Data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now, before entirely preventable health conditions, which often begin in childhood, overwhelm the Nation's health care system.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN F. MARSH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Benjamin F. Marsh, who passed from this life at the age of 87 years. Ben was a respected attorney and longtime solicitor for the City of Maumee, Ohio. A proud patriot, Ben Marsh's life was one of service to others.

Born in Sylvania, Ohio, Ben served our nation during World War II as a member of the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, he attended George Washington Law School. While at George Washington, Ben worked in federal service for the Atomic Energy Commission. Upon earning his law degree he first went to Columbus, Ohio and then returned to Northwest Ohio to practice law.

Early in Ben's law career his services were retained by local government. In 1963 he became the Maumee solicitor. Always committed to public service, Ben decided to run for Congress in 1968, though he was not successful against the incumbent. Ben went on to admirably and ably chair his county party for many years. With a compassionate world view, Ben was named a U.S. Representative to the 1972 general conference of UNESCO. He later served on the U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

Not one to let retirement end his public service, Ben remained an active and engaged citizen. In 1997 Ben was asked by the State Department to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina to help oversee local elections. He served on the Ohio Elections Commission and was a co-chairman in 2007 of a study committee on Lucas County governance. He also briefly served on the Lucas County Board of Elections.

Perhaps Ben's greatest legacy is his family. He and his wife Martha were married for 62 years and together raised a son and daughter. They shared in the joy of their five grandchildren. We know that Ben's family will find comfort in memory and the gift of his life.

Ben Marsh was an outstanding citizen, keen intellect, accomplished lawyer, and a devoted patriot at home and abroad. He embodied the meaning of the words "enlightened citizen." His kind nature and sense of humor made him a bridge builder at every level he served. Our community has been bettered by his lifelong dedication to it. Personally, I am grateful for his advice and counsel so selflessly rendered.

HONORING NAPA VALLEY HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa Valley Horsemen's Association (NVHA) for 75 years of service to the Napa community. Throughout its history, NVHA has provided education and training about horses, offered scholarships for local students, and participated in community service projects, which is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

NVHA was founded in Napa, California, in 1939 to promote interest in horses as a hobby and recreational activity. The Association has grown from its original 61 members to almost 300 members and is the oldest horsemen's association in California today.

Outside of horse shows and educational clinics, NVHA has never ceased to serve the Napa community. After a flood damaged the community in 1940, NVHA members helped to repair the Napa Fairgrounds. NVHA also hosts fundraising events to help local charities. They recently helped Ag 4 Youth, an animal husbandry program for at-risk youth, by providing land where these kids can raise their animals. In addition to helping the community, NVHA provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will study veterinary science, agriculture, or forestry after high school.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank NVHA not only for their commitment to equestrianism, but for their commitment to our community. NVHA's unyielding dedication to educating the community and providing community services is greatly appreciated by the Napa community and we wish them further success as an already distinguished organization.

CONGRATULATING THE DECATUR COUNTY FAMILY YMCA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Decatur County Family YMCA on its 100th anniversary.

Across the country, YMCAs provide an invaluable service promoting youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. These facilities serve 21 million Americans nationwide by offering a variety of programs, such as affordable preschool, youth sports and fitness, Bible studies, and summer camps, which are just a few of the many services and activities routinely offered. Countless individuals have benefited from the positive change the local YMCA has brought to their lives and communities.

The Decatur County Family YMCA has served the people of Greensburg since its incorporation in 1914. It is one of the oldest non-profit agencies in southeastern Indiana. This cornerstone of the community has been an asset for the greater Greensburg area and has provided residents with unique programs, classes and resources that many would not have had access to in its absence. As a young student, I attended the Greensburg YMCA gym regularly.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Decatur County Family YMCA on its 100th anniversary. I have no doubt that this extraordinary institution will be serving families in southeastern Indiana for many more years to come.

HONORING LLOYD GEORGE BURNETT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, immigrants from around the world have come to our shores in order to seek new opportunities. Like so many others, Lloyd George Burnett has found the American dream. He has also worked hard to serve and enrich the community in which he lives.

Lloyd immigrated to the United States from Jamaica in 1969, where he lived in Connecticut for two years before moving to the Bronx. Lloyd quickly established himself professionally in his new homeland. In just four years after moving to America, Lloyd rose to become the chief mechanic for the Professional Linen Corp., where his responsibilities included managing the company's fleet of vans and trucks. But he had set even higher goals for himself.

After working for several years as a mechanic, Lloyd finally achieved his dream of becoming an entrepreneur, opening Lloyd's Auto Repair in 1981. It was not an easy start for Lloyd. He started his shop with only two bays, then he did something very brave, but also very risky: he invested all of his savings into his fledgling business, after the banks refused to lend to him. This proved to be a very savvy move. Lloyd's Auto Repair first opened its doors some 32 years ago, and continues to serve customers in the tristate region.

Lloyd has generously shared his knowledge with other aspiring small business owners. He lent his expertise to help Henry Carter, Radcliff Simpson, and Dahkia Thompson secure a location for a business they recently opened on Sandford Blvd., in Mount Vernon.

Not only should Lloyd be recognized as an example of a small business owner, but for being a good neighbor who is always looking for ways to make a positive impact to his community. Lloyd has long been a strong supporter of the All Islands Association, a local Caribbean-American civic organization, as well as other civic groups in his community. Lloyd is the proud father of Tony, Robin and Lloyd Jr. He has also been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren. Jewel, T.J., Kyla, Triston, and Tyler.

Lloyd George Burnett has clearly worked hard to achieve his dreams, as well as lend his talents to his community. His tenacity, leadership and service to the community is truly commendable.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PEDRO IRIARTE BORJA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pedro Iriarte Borja, the former mayor of the municipality of Chalan Pago-Ordot in Guam. Mayor Borja passed away on May 30, 2014 at the age of 85.

Pedro Iriarte Borja was born on July 1, 1928 to Francisco Borja Borja and Ana Benavente Iriarte Borja. Affectionately known as ''Pete,'' he married Maria Crisostomo Arceo, his wife of 62 years, on July 7, 1951 and together they had seven children.

Pedro Borja was elected mayor of Chalan Pago-Ordot in November of 2004 and served from 2005 to 2009. During his term, Mayor Borja made significant improvements in the community. He oversaw the restoration of the Jose Atoigue Park and erected monuments to honor fallen servicemembers from Chalan Pago-Ordot.

Prior to his term as mayor, Pete Borja attended the Territorial College of Guam, which subsequently became the University of Guam, where he served as Student Body President. He then joined the United States Navy and served in the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1956, and subsequently returned to Guam.

After his service in the Navy, Pete worked at the Navy Public Works Center (PWC), Ship Repair Facility (SRF), U.S. Post Office, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1967, he joined the Military Sealift Merchant Marines. He retired as a civil servant after 30 years.

Following his civil service, Mayor Borja remained an active member of our community. He was instrumental to developing and supporting activities for senior citizens of Ordot. His advocacy was key to developing the Ordot Community Advancement Association (OCAA) Bingo operations, which helped to raise funds for the San Juan Bautista Catholic Church. He was also the Director of Tita's Day Care, his wife's daycare business.

Mayor Borja served as the President of the Korean War Veterans Association and was recognized as Veteran of the Year in 2011. He was also an active member of the Guam Caregiver's Association and served as the organization's treasurer.

Mayor Borja was a dedicated public servant and leader who worked to help others in our community. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and I join the people of Guam in mourning a great veteran and public servant. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Though he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the memories of the people of Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. DONNA QUINCE-COBB FOR HER COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE PONTIAC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary member of our community, Mrs. Donna Quince-Cobb, for her abundant service to the community and her outstanding achievements as recognized by the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. during its 31st Finer Womanhood Scholarship Luncheon.

Mrs. Quince-Cobb has an incredible passion for serving others, which is evident in her daily life. Forty years ago, her career began as a secretary to seven insurance agents, while simultaneously attending college. She diligently pursued her interest in sales and shortly after, acquired her own agency in 1982. Mrs. Quince-Cobb finds special joy in supporting children and the elderly. She is currently involved in a variety of community organizations, which also allows her to positively impact many lives. She is a charter member of the Noon Optimist Club of Auburn Hills and the North Oakland County Women's Council of Realtors. Concurrently, she dedicates her time to the spiritual needs of others through her volunteer service with the Senior Usher Board, the Deaconess Ministry, Pastor's Care, and Travel Ministries of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Quince-Cobb also extends her support to many women's shelters and other organizations, which support less fortunate children, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Children's Village. She has actively served on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Auburn Hills and served as a judge for an oratorical contest for college scholarships. Throughout her life, she has thoughtfully provided opportunities to many high school students through Co-Op and summer jobs. She has also helped shape the careers of many adult women in her agency by encouraging them to pursue a career in the insurance industry and other professional endeavors. She is proud to be the longest serving member of the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce and received an award for her commitment to the Auburn Hills community. Additionally, she was recognized by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as Business Woman of the Year in 2007 and by the NANBPW Clubs as the first black female business owner in the Pontiac area.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Quince-Cobb has devoted her life to helping others in need. From serving others as an aspiring career-woman in her early days to being a distinguished businesswoman and leader in her community today, she is a role model to the community and the epitome of an excellent leader. She has changed and impacted the lives of many people through her service. I am pleased to honor Mrs. Quince-Cobb as the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority recognizes her as one of its 2014 31st Finer Womanhood Scholarship Honorees.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF COL GEORGETTE GOONAN TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONSTITUENTS OF COLORADO'S FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude for Colonel Georgette Goonan's 24 years of service to the U.S. Army and the people of Fountain, Colorado.

Before residing in Fountain, Colonel Goonan earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree from Iowa State in 1980. She then served in numerous assignments around the globe, including Veterinary Officer, Roving Sands Mission, in Fort Bliss, Texas; Veterinary Food Service Officer, Operation New Horizons, in Belize; Veterinarian in Fort Carson, Colorado; Veterinary Training Officer 993rd Medical Detachment in Denver, Colorado; and Veterinary Officer in Panama. Her most recent active duty assignment was as Commander of the 993rd Medical Detachment in Afghanistan between December 2008 and January 2010. Her Army Reserve assignments include Veterinary Surgical Team Officer in Kuwait supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current Team Chief for the 7305th Medical Training Support Battalion in Sacramento, California.

Colonel Goonan is a graduate of the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Officer Basic Course; AMEDD Augmentation Course; Captain Career Course, Intermediate Level Education Course; Defense Support of Civilian Authorities Course; Pre-Command Course; Sanitation Audit Cert Course; and Commanders Safety Course.

During her distinguished career, Colonel Goonan has received numerous decorations including the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster; and Unit Meritorious Service Medal.

Colonel Goonan has made sizeable civilian contributions to her community in Colorado as well, as both owner of Rocky Mountain Veterinary Service in Fountain and as a Supervisor on the El Paso County Conservation District. As she retires from the U.S. Army, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation for her commitment to defending our country and the invaluable contributions she has made to Colorado.

HONORING FAROOQ KATHWARI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the strength of our Nation is built on the positive impact that individual Americans make in the service to their country, their communities and to one another. The decisions and actions of every citizen matter because they have the power to

make a difference to the lives of fellow Americans and even those abroad.

Farooq Kathwari, and his family, are examples of this notion—of individuals working to improve the lives of others—both near and abroad.

Farooq has been the Chairman, President, and CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors since 1988. His admirable success in business has afforded him the opportunity to pursue his interests in community service. Alongside his family, Farooq has been involved in a variety of nonprofit organizations. His dedication to improving the well-being of others is truly exceptional, as is his success in business, which was recognized with an induction into the American Furniture Hall of Fame.

Farooq is a member of President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, a former Chairman Emeritus and current Director of Refugees International, and a Director of the International Rescue Committee. In addition to his work to improve the lives of the most vulnerable around the world, Farooq is also well respected in America's foreign policy establishment. He is a Director of the Henry L. Stimson Center, the Founder and Chairman of the Kashmir Study Group, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and served as a member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Advisory Board. Such distinguished recognition has allowed Farooq to pursue his passion to advocate on behalf of the voiceless, a campaign which has never ceased to be at the forefront of his concerns.

The Kathwari family has been well recognized within our community for their leadership and dedication to the protection of those less fortunate, to the advancement of humanitarianism and advocacy for religious freedom and tolerance. Farooq is a recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, which recognizes the significant contribution to society in the arts, education, citizenship and humanitarian concerns. He has also been awarded the Outstanding American by Choice Award from our government, the Anti-Defamation League's Humanitarian Award, and the National Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee.

Such awards symbolize the dedicated effort that individuals such as Farooq make to bridge societal divides, reduce antagonisms wherever they might arise, and implore our leaders to think locally and act globally.

Farooq and his family are exemplary citizens. Their sense of justice and commitment to the protection of vulnerable individuals and to humanitarianism is a reflection of values we most cherish as a Nation. I commend Farooq Kathwari and his family for their past work and continued dedication. They are the deserving recipients of the Commitment to Service Award from Hope Community Services.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN'S OLDEST COUNTY FAIR

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the Lenawee County Fair. First organized by the Agricultural Society of Lenawee County in 1839, this wonderful tradition will resume for a 175th time on July 20, 2014.

Agriculture has been a key component of the local economy since early settlers arrived in the region in the 1820's. As their reputation for agricultural expertise and skill in crop and animal production grew, the organization of a fair to showcase the best of their farms and fields was a logical outcome.

In 1879, the Agricultural Society of Lenawee County moved the fair to larger grounds on the east side of Adrian, Michigan to accommodate the large number of participants and attendees. The fair has remained in this location ever since.

That first gathering held in 1839—the first county fair in the state of Michigan—began a ritual that would endure through good years and bad. Despite immense challenges and changes to the county, the State, and our world, Lenawee County continues to be home to a number of thriving agricultural entities and a place where rural life is embraced and celebrated. In honor of that tradition, 4–H and FFA youth will join open class exhibitors in showcasing their best animals, crops, and crafts.

The Lenawee County Fair is not only a fun event to attend each summer, but it is a vital part of our community, maintaining our values and preserving our agricultural heritage. This year's theme for the 175th anniversary of the Lenawee County Fair is "The Best Is Yet To Come." Mr. Speaker, I believe that slogan captures this historic and great event which so many in Michigan have had the opportunity to enjoy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 242, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING SABRINA ANTOINETTE HOSANG

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities rely on individuals like Sabrina Antoinette HoSang to further strengthen the ties that bond them, and prepare the next generation for success.

Sabrina, a 2001 graduate of Villanova University, worked for her family business, Caribbean Food Delights, during her school breaks. She continued working for Caribbean Food Delights after she graduated. With a keen eye for marketing, Sabrina created the Mr. & Mrs. Patty mascot, revived the Patty Eating Contest, and created the Bun and Cheese event.

In February 2006, she was promoted to her current position, Chief Operating Officer, in which she oversees production, quality assurance, customer service, food safety, and a host of other divisions. Caribbean Food Delights launched a new product line called Sabrina's Delights in September 2012.

Sabrina has received many awards during her tenure. Under her management as COO, Caribbean Food Delights received the Forbes Enterprise Award in February 2007. She was inducted as a 2007 Business Visionary from the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI).

She has earned the Women Celebrating Women Award of Excellence from the Progressive Democrats Political Association, a City Council Citation from Congresswoman YVETTE D. CLARKE, and a New York State Assembly Citation from Assemblyman Carl Heastie for community service. She has also received the Consul General's Award from the Jamaica Consulate for helping the underserved communities in both New York and Jamaica. In November 2007, the Universal Peace Federation recognized her as an Ambassador for Peace.

She has been honored for her outstanding commitment to the Caribbean community at the 6th Anniversary Celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month by Former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham. And finally, adding to her impressive public service resume, Sabrina received a Community Leadership Award from Jamaica College Old Boys Association of New York and received a "20 Under 40" Award from Caribbean Life in November 2013.

Sabrina has helped award six scholarships totaling $150,000 for the entrepreneurial program at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, through the Vincent HoSang Family Foundation. A G.O.O.D for Girls mentor, Sabrina, hopes to inspire young people to become leaders and entrepreneurs.

Sabrina Antoinette HoSang's many contributions to her community are admirable. She has truly made a difference in the lives of many.

RECOGNIZING COLUMBUS BONE, SR.

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize Mr. Columbus Bone, Sr., who passed away on June 2, 2014.

Mr. Bone, who lived in Detroit, Michigan, was 100 at the time of his passing. Born in Huntsville, Alabama on October 6, 1913, Mr. Bone lived a life committed to faith, family, and our country.

Mr. Bone, the youngest of nine brothers and sisters, was the foundation of his family. In 1942, he married Pauline Harrison and lived a life devoted to loving his son Columbus Bone, Jr., six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, thirty nieces and nephews, and over 150 great-grandnieces and nephews.

Following his marriage, he cemented his dedication to our country by joining the Armed Forces in 1942. Mr. Bone served a private in the Quarter-Master Unit of the Army during World War II until his honorable discharge on August 29, 1946. Mr. Bone was awarded a F.A.M.E. Medal for his service by the Northern African Theaters. His bravery and honor speak

volumes to his true spirit of an American patriot.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Pvt. Columbus Bone, Sr. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his legacy.

IN APPRECIATION OF STEPHANIE Y. MOORE AND HER YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I, along with House Judiciary Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Jr. of Michigan and former Representative Melvin Watt of North Carolina would like to thank Stephanie Y. Moore for twelve years of service to the House of Representatives. Nine of those years were spent as a dedicated counsel to the Judiciary Committee under four Chairmen, including myself and Representatives JIM SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin, JOHN CONYERS, Jr. and LAMAR SMITH of Texas. She also served three years as General Counsel to Representative GEORGE MILLER of California and the House Education and Labor Committee.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Stephanie graduated with high honors from Oberlin College and went on to distinguish herself at Harvard Law School where she became only the second Black woman in the school's history to earn an invitation to become an editor of the venerable Harvard Law Review. After graduation, she clerked for the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and practiced law with the Center for Constitutional Rights. Immediately prior to joining the Judiciary Committee as Chief Counsel to Ranking Member Watt, Stephanie worked in the Administration of President Bill Clinton as General Counsel to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and Special Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education. She also served on the faculties of the District of Columbia School of Law and the Howard University Law School.

Stephanie joined the Judiciary Committee during the August 2001 recess and sat as counsel on her first hearing on the morning of September 11. In the aftermath of the terrible terrorist attacks on that day, Stephanie served as the principal Democratic staff negotiator on measures to ensure the privacy and civil liberties of the American public in a post 9/11 world.

Throughout her tenure, Stephanie consistently identified and focused on the fundamental policies implicated by legislative proposals. During her career with the Judiciary Committee, she exhibited a wide range of interests and considerable versatility in handling subjects as complex and diverse as administrative law, tax policy, privacy and civil liberties, antitrust, online commerce and piracy, trade and intellectual property. Stephanie's tenacity, passion and no-nonsense approach won her both admirers and critics. Her intellect and determination were instrumental in committee efforts to ensure that robust standards were established to fairly compensate the victims of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010 and again the following year as she sought to balance the interests of multiple stakeholders during the drafting of and debates on the Stop Online Piracy Act. Stephanie's ability to manage and contribute to a range of significant public policy initiatives was evident in the key role she played as the lead Democratic staffer on the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 and during passage of landmark, bipartisan legislation that included the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act of 2011 and the Foreign and Economic Espionage Penalty Enhancement Act of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud Stephanie's tireless, principled and loyal public service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN S. RUSKAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John S. Ruskay for his contributions to the American Jewish community.

Dr. Ruskay has dedicated his life to the pursuit of education and philanthropy, serving many roles within the Jewish community throughout his career. From 1980 to 1985, Dr. Ruskay was the Educational Director of the 92nd Street Y in New York. This venerable institution is renowned for its devotion to philanthropy and community enhancement. It is a testimony to Dr. Ruskay's talents that he ran the educational pursuits of this institution.

He has also served as a senior consultant to the Wexner Foundation and the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies. These organizations are at the forefront of fostering connections between individuals and their community. Their work has helped ensure that future generations of the Jewish community are not just aware of their cultural heritage, but that they are instilled with a desire to give back to the community as leaders.

For the past 15 years, Dr. Ruskay has served as CEO of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York. In this role, he has provided strong leadership and has helped advance UJA-Federation's vision of a more interconnected Jewish community. Under his leadership, the UJA-Federation mobilized its resources to help launch the Israel Trauma Center to help Israeli victims of terror attacks during the second intifada. It was also under his leadership that the charity launched Connect to Care to help people struggling during the recession. And in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, UJA-Federation provided millions of dollars to help restore damaged communities.

Dr. Ruskay has been honored with numerous awards for his extensive work in the Jewish community in New York, the United States, and worldwide. He is a recipient of the Bernard Reisman Award for Professional Excellence from Brandeis University's Hornstein program and the Association of Jewish Communal Service's Mandelkom Distinguished Service Award. He also holds honorary doctorates from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Hebrew Union College, and Yeshiva University.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. John S. Ruskay for his remarkable service and lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JEANETTE M. CAMPBELL FOR HER OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND PONTIAC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jeanette M. Campbell for the remarkable impact she has made on the Greater Detroit community, which has earned her recognition from the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Early in her life, Dr. Campbell demonstrated dedication to succeed and make a difference in her community. From the beginning of her journey through the higher education system, Dr. Campbell recognized the value and power that comes with knowledge. After graduation from Tennessee State University with her Bachelor's Degree, Dr. Campbell went on to obtain a Medical Doctorate from Meharry Medical College and a Master's of Business Administration from Madonna University. She later went on to continue her studies at Children's Hospital of Michigan, Vanderbilt University and the Columbia University School of Medicine.

In her professional career, Dr. Campbell currently serves as Vice President of Medical Associates, Inc., Associate Medical Staff at both Doctors' Hospital of Michigan and St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland and a member of the teaching faculty at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland. She has served at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland for more than thirty-five years and is the recipient of a service award in recognition of her diligent work on her patients' behalf. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Campbell serves on the Pediatric Advisory Committee for St. Joseph, as well as on the Pediatric Executive Committee of the National Medical Association. She also serves as Treasurer for the Pediatric Section of the National Medical Association and has been recognized by her peers with the Grace James Leadership Award in Pediatrics.

Beyond her professional work, Dr. Campbell is active in the Greater Pontiac community—engaged in endeavors that are helping others to realize their dreams. As a mentor for the Upward Bound program at Oakland University, Dr. Campbell is helping students realize the value of higher education which is vital to their success. Dr. Campbell is an active lifetime member of the NAACP, a speaker for the Black College Fund and an active member of the St. John United Methodist Church in Pontiac. She has received numerous awards for her leadership in the community including: the Image Award in Medicine and Theophalious Northcross Award from the North Oakland

Branch of the NAACP and the Community Service Award from the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a strong community leader, like Dr. Jeanette Campbell, for her dedication to her profession and to the Pontiac community. Her hard work and selflessness are an inspiration to all of us that seek to serve others I know her husband, Dr. Eugene Rogers, and their children and grandchildren must be so proud of Dr. Campbell for this great distinction and I wish Dr. Campbell well as she continues to make a difference in the Greater Detroit community.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALEXA EFRAIMSON OF CAMAS, WASHINGTON

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexa Efraimson and the Camas High School girls' track and field team for their success at the Washington state track and field championships.

Two weeks ago, Alexa won the 1,600-meter race for the second year in a row and won her second 800-meter race on Saturday, May 31. She not only won the Washington state title in the 1,600-meter, but she broke the national high school record. Right now, no high school woman in this country is faster than she is at the 1,600-meter race; she is second to none.

I am also very proud to congratulate the girls' track and field team from my hometown of Camas for placing second at the state meet. Their success stands as evidence that each individual athlete has the ability, the desire, the determination, and the commitment to stay the course and excel in achieving their goals.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor Alexa and the Camas High School girls' track and field team on a job well done at Washington State's track and field state championship.

HONORING PATRICIA LANZA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the moral fabric of our neighborhoods and communities in the United States are tightly knitted together by the actions of individuals who selflessly benefit us without public spotlight. In this, Patricia Lanza is an unsung hero.

Patricia has been a dedicated benefactor to many organizations in Westchester that help women, children and families in need. Patricia has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to high school girls who dreamed of going to college but didn't have the means. She has been a generous, dedicated contributor to scholarship programs, believing that an investment in education reaps many great rewards. She is an important asset to community groups that work for peace, equality and feed the homeless.

Abroad, Patricia has found many ways to direct her caring and concern towards some of the world's most vulnerable communities. Working alongside UNICEF and the Ford Foundation, Patricia helped construct and staff three centers for children with disabilities in Vietnam. The centers focus on birth defects that are directly attributable to the residue of Agent Orange left behind from the Vietnam War.

Patricia has also funded projects in Africa that address local needs. In Swaziland, she responded to imminent famine and food shortages by building and outfitting a 400 hectare working farm in Malkerns Valley, which provided food and jobs for hundreds of area families. She has helped women in Zimbabwe who are suffering from AIDS. Recently, she funded construction for a school in Southern Sudan in one of the toughest to reach areas in that war-torn country.

These are not the actions of an ordinary individual—it shows the extraordinary achievements of a woman whose selfless dedication is fueled by the generosity of her spirit. Quite simply, Patricia brings hope where ever she goes.

Our late President John F. Kennedy once noted that, "we must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." We as her neighbors, friends, and colleagues should be honored by her presence in our lives. Her legacy in Westchester County and around the world will have enduring value in this world.

I am proud to congratulate Patricia on receiving the Spirit of Excellence Award from Hope Community Services. Her devotion to her community, both at home in Westchester and abroad, knows few bounds.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAYMOND H. BOONE, SR.

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Raymond H. Boone, Sr., who passed away on June 3, 2014. Ray devoted his entire life to fighting for justice and equality, becoming one of the most trusted voices in news in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Born in Suffolk, Virginia, Ray earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Boston University and a master's degree in political science from Howard University. Ray's first foray into the newspaper business was as a reporter for the Quincy, Massachusetts Patriot-Ledger and later he worked for the Suffolk, Virginia News-Herald. He also worked as a reporter for the Norfolk, Virginia Journal and Guide. He eventually made his way to Richmond, where he became the editor of the Richmond Afro-American Planet, a position he held for 15 years.

Ray temporarily left Richmond to be the editor and vice president of the Baltimore-based Afro-American Newspaper Group. He also served as a correspondent for the National Newspaper Association where he reported from Germany, Finland, the former Soviet Union, Israel and Cuba. And for nine years, he was an associate professor of journalism at Howard University in Washington, DC.

In 1992, after returning to Richmond, Ray founded the Richmond Free Press, a progressive weekly newspaper that gave a voice to Richmond's voiceless. Under Ray's leadership as editor and publisher, the Free Press quickly emerged as an honored newspaper in the Richmond region. The Free Press has become a critical source of news and information for the Richmond community, often covering issues and stories left unnoticed by larger media organizations.

For his reporting and writing, Ray received the Oliver W. Hill Freedom Fighter Award, the DaimlerChrysler Entrepreneurial Award, a first-place Virginia Press Association editorial writing award, the International Toastmasters' Leadership Award, and the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award. The Free Press also won eight national awards for journalist excellence from the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Throughout his life and career, Ray received numerous other awards, including the Dominion Resources Strong Men and Women Excellence in Leadership Award, the Metropolitan Business League Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian of the Year Award, and the United Negro College Fund Flame Bearer for Education Award. He was also honored by the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg, Florida for his "outstanding teaching in journalism."

Ray will be missed, not only by family and friends, but also by the many people who enjoyed his analysis on the day's news. As a reporter, correspondent, editor, newspaper executive and publisher, Ray always had a unique perspective and a thoughtful approach to disseminating the news to the African-American community and the public at large. A fixture in the Virginia Press Corps for decades, Ray was recognized numerous times, not only for his contributions to the community and the media, but also for excellence with his craft. His legacy lives on in the award-winning and influential paper he leaves behind, the Richmond Free Press. His legacy can also be found in the thriving African-American media landscape which blossomed as a result of his contributions and hard work.

On a personal note, I will always cherish Ray's friendship. Ray was a newsman first and he never allowed our friendship to prevent him from covering me in an objective manner. I will always cherish our many interviews and editorial board meetings and I will miss talking politics and policy with him. Most importantly, I will miss his thoughtful approach to presenting the news. The Virginia Press Corps and the Commonwealth of Virginia have lost a powerful and unwavering voice.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond H. Boone, Sr. will be sorely missed by his family and friends, and by the countless people he gave a voice to through his writing and reporting. My thoughts and prayers are with Ray's wife, Jean, their children, Regina and Raymond Jr., and the staff and many devoted readers of the Richmond Free Press.

RECOGNIZING MR. SANTOSH MADHAVAN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Central Floridian, Mr. Santosh Madhavan, an Advanced Placement teacher at Lake Highland Preparatory School, for being selected as a member of the inaugural class of AP Advocacy Fellows.

The AP Advocacy Fellowship Program engages exceptional AP teachers who ensure that every student is provided access to opportunity. As part of the program, fellows participate in professional development training that focuses on media communication, government relations, and relevant state and federal legislation.

In this global economy, our economic prosperity depends on our ability to train a high-wage, high-tech workforce able to compete with countries around the world. In order to achieve these goals, we must build an education system that not only works to solve today's problems but also focuses on our nation's long term competitiveness.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Madhavan for his demonstrated excellence in education, and I thank him for his commitment to the students of Central Florida.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR PATRICIA B. OVERTON FOR HER MILITARY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF THE JROTC PROGRAM IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary member of our community, Major Patricia Overton, for her dedicated service to our country and young people through her administration of the JROTC program. It is these outstanding qualities that have earned her recognition from the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Major Overton, a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Webster University, was on active duty from 1981 to 2001 as a U.S. Army Officer. She is a member of Lomax Temple AME Zion Church, Detroit Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Teachers and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has received the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Distinctive Silver Instructor award.

As an outstanding member of her community, Major Overton has benefited the JROTC program by serving as the Deputy Director for 17 high school JROTC programs and approximately 4,000 cadets. Her position includes coordinating formal inspections, developing standards for staff briefings, producing and editing summer camp newsletters, fostering relationships with TACOM/TARDEC for summer jobs for cadets, STEM tutoring for cadets and STEM instruction at JCLC. Major Overton also improves the lives of our youth by assisting cadets with college and scholarship applications. One of her greatest contributions has been to establish sponsored visits to West Point for her exceptional 2nd and 3rd year JROTC cadets who demonstrated interest in a military career, which has led an average of acceptance for two of her cadets to West Point each year.

Major Overton has also established a National Forensic League-style forensics program for her LET IV cadets, providing them the opportunity to enhance their research, critical thinking, and public speaking skills, as well as their ability to be informed, engaged citizens of our society.

Mr. Speaker, Major Overton has dedicated her life to serving our country through active service and management of the JROTC. From helping ensuring JROTC operates as effectively as possible to making college a reality for many teenagers, she is a role model to the community and the epitome of an excellent leader. She has immensely improved the lives of many people through her service. I am pleased to honor Major Patricia Overton for her continuing accomplishments and service to the community.

SUPPORTING NORTH STOKES TO SOFTBALL VICTORY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in sports, a strong support system can hold the key to success and that is what helped the North Stokes softball team defeat Whiteville 10–1 on Saturday to capture the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1A state softball championship. I am proud to say that the Lady Vikings, who call the Sixth District of North Carolina home, won the title two games to one this past weekend.

Knowing the road to success can be a bumpy one, family, friends and other community members lined the streets with signs cheering on the softball team as they headed out for the championship in hopes that their spirit-filled send off would make the sailing a little smoother for the Lady Vikings.

The support of the community, however, was not the only helping hand for the team along their journey to the top. The Lady Vikings defense provided the squad with a much-needed edge. The outfield took charge by honing in on multiple drives to alleviate potential extra-base hits. ''Our defense was awesome,'' Head Coach Jeff Frye told the Winston-Salem Journal. ''I thought that played a bigger part in getting us pumped up. I think it just got momentum on our side.''

''I'm just tickled,'' Vikings Pitcher Lindsay Brown told the Stokes News moments after the victory was secured. She had reason to be happy. Not only did she pitch the title-clinching game, she was also named the series' Most Valuable Player.

Coach Frye credits the team's success to their strong ability to face all obstacles. Besides MVP Brown, the team included Sabrina Dodson, Emily Evans, Tana Frye, Chandley Garner, Tristan Hubbard, Hannah Mabe, Hannah McBride, Emily Myers, Heather Nall, Emma Petree, Ashley Smith, and Carson Watkins. The Vikings path to victory was aided by assistant coaches Barry Dodson, Rebecca Gunter, and Randy Shelton.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Principal Nathan Rasey, Athletic Director Trey Wiggins, the faculty, staff, and students of North Stokes High for winning the 1A state softball championship. In the case of the Lady Vikings, they proved that a strong support system can lead to a championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM ''BILL'' HARDACRE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William ''Bill'' Hardacre of Anderson, Indiana. He passed away on May 11, 2014, at the age of 82. A man of deep faith, Bill worked for decades toward the improvement of his city and country. He served both the United States and Anderson with integrity and honor.

A lifelong Hoosier and Anderson resident, Bill graduated from Anderson High School. He then earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Indiana University. Upon completion of his degree, Bill served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1952 through 1954.

Returning to Anderson, Bill joined the family business, Best Ever Dairy, as treasurer. During his 35-year career with the company, it grew from a local operation to a business serving central Indiana and beyond. After retiring, he continued his business ventures by developing both residential and commercial properties in Anderson and founding, E.V.I., an electric vehicle manufacturing firm now based in California.

Not only was Bill an accomplished businessman, he also played an exceptionally active role in the Anderson community. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he was a lay leader for more than two decades. He also held leadership positions at the Christian Center, Fine Arts Center, Evening Exchange Club, the Harter House, and was a member of the board of trustees at Anderson University for 15 years.

Yet another example of Bill's dedication to the Anderson community was his work to save and restore the historic Paramount Theatre. Built in 1929, the Paramount was a major attraction for decades. A true architectural gem, its grandeur was a source of admiration and pride for the entire Anderson community. However, by 1989 the building had fallen into severe disrepair. Along with a group of community leaders, Bill formed the Paramount Theatre Heritage Foundation, saving the historic landmark from demolition and preserving its beauty for future generations. He then went on to serve as the Foundation's first President and was a member of the board of directors until his passing.

Bill Hardacre is an irreplaceable member of the Anderson community whose legacy will live on for generations to come. Without his tireless devotion, Anderson would not be the wonderful community it is today. He worked for a lifetime toward making his hometown a

more prosperous city. I will never forget my initial visit with Bill at the Toast Café or our talks at Lake Wawasee, discussing the issues facing Indiana's 5th Congressional District and beyond. I want to thank Bill's wife, Ann Hardacre, and the rest of his family for sharing Bill with myself and so many others. He touched our lives and served as a shining example for all those working to make a better life for future generations.

HONORING LISA AND ROB PATCHEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally recognize Lisa and Rob Patchen for their outstanding service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue in New Rochelle, New York.

Lisa is a past member of the Nursery School Board and, for several years, has led the synagogue's handprint tile fundraiser, the success of which is evident outside the Nursery School office.

Rob is in his second term as a member of the Board of Trustees, and just recently completed a two-year term as recording secretary. He has also served as the chairman of the Assistant Rabbi Search Committee, the Nominating Committee, Hazzan Search Committee, and is currently an active member of the Families Initiative Committee and the Youth Services Committee.

The pair will be honored by Beth El with the President's Ne'emanim Service Award for all they have done to support and serve their local Jewish community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lisa and Rob Patchen for their service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue.

HONORING BIRMINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE CHIEF IVOR J. BROOKS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks who passed away on Wednesday May 28. As we mourn his untimely passing, I am comforted in knowing that his legacy of exemplary public service will bring peace to those affected by this tremendous loss to the State of Alabama.

Chief Brooks was sworn into the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department on May 3, 1982. His illustrious career as a first responder would span more than 30 years. Throughout his tenure, he distinguished himself as a servant leader who worked his way up the ranks of the department. He was appointed the 20th fire chief of the city of Birmingham on November 14, 2007 after 26 years on the job.

This nationally recognized first responder was trained at the National Fire Academy in Maryland and the U.S. Department of Justice Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Facility of Incident Commanders. He also attended the Alabama Fire College, completed the Personnel Standards Commission, and the Fire Chief's Executive Development Program. Prior to being named fire chief, he served as Incident Commander for the State of Alabama.

During his time at the helm of Alabama's largest fire department, city leaders often commended Chief Brooks for his dedication to building and maintaining a fire department that Birmingham residents could be proud of. His responsible and practical leadership resulted in the revitalization and construction of various new firehouses throughout the city. I have fond memories of working closely with Chief Brooks to secure funding opportunities for improvement projects. He understood that the success of the 700 men and women he ably led was dependent upon securing resources and opportunities to support them in performing their duties.

Throughout his impactful lifetime, Chief Brooks also received numerous awards for his leadership and innovation in the field. But despite his celebrated career, his greatest achievement was his family and his dedication to his faith. Before his death, Chief Brooks served as a trustee on the board of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. He was married to Joyce E. Brooks and was the father of four children; Ivon, Nyyah, Ivor, Jr. and Matthew and one grandchild, August Rayne Howell.

On behalf of a grateful nation and state, we salute this American treasure who was committed to protecting and serving the community that he loved. As we seek comfort in the aftermath of his untimely passing, we will forever remember Chief Brooks as an energetic and personable leader that was committed to obtaining the best results for his department. We salute Chief Brooks and pray for his family and his colleagues as we mourn the loss of this American hero. We honor his life and we thank him for his noble contributions to mankind. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the passing of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 241, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSTON PRIDE WEEK AND LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBT Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 45 years since the infamous Stonewall Uprising in 1969 in New York City.

Our country made progress with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better. In July 2011, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. The Supreme Court agreed and on June 26, 2011, handed down the landmark decision in United States v. Windsor, 570 U.S. 12 (2013), which struck down Section 3 of DOMA because it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment by treating relationships that had equal status under state law differently under federal law.

That decision accelerated the movement for marriage equality and today 19 states now recognize same-sex marriages.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, brilliantly shepherded to passage by one of the greatest Texans, President Johnson, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, education, and employment on the grounds of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The Civil Rights Act has made our country better.

I am pleased to report that progress is being made at the local level as well. Last month, the Houston City Council approved the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, which extends the right to seek and hold employment, obtain housing, and enjoy public accommodations free from discrimination to all individuals in Houston without regard not just to sex, race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin but also to age, familial status, marital status, military status, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or pregnancy.

The HERO Ordinance represents another giant step forward in our nation's and my city's continuing efforts to form a more perfect union. I believe the anti-discrimination protections Houstonians now enjoy should be extended to all persons in our country, which can be done this year were Congress to pass the Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law but it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston celebrates Houston Pride Week later this month, from June 20–29.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBT community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 35 years, since 1979, held to promote the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBT community. The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of the Celebration and are annually attended by more than 400,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders who actively engage their communities and face adversity to

ensure that the rights of all are clearly defined and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the 1963 March on Washington.

Other members of the LGBT community whose contributions have made enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Billy Strayhorn the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination America be a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBT community members.

HONORING BARBARA AND JOEL RASCOFF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Barbara and Joel Rascoff have been steadfast in their commitment to the New Rochelle community. The community is truly indebted to their selfless service and the legacy that they are continuing to build.

As part of the Young Israel of New Rochelle Community (YINR), Barbara and Joel have chaired numerous dinners and dinner journals, and Joel has even helped document shul events by serving as a photographer. Both Barbara and Joel are known for their kind and giving nature, making newcomers feel exceedingly welcome in the New Rochelle Jewish community. Their efforts were crucial in bringing Rabbi Reuven Fink to YINR.

Throughout their involvement with YINR, Joel served as both a member of the Board of Trustees and as Vice President of Fundraising, finding the time to help lead effort to raise crucial funds for YINR, whilst working as a respected nephrologist within the community.

Barbara became deeply involved in shul fundraising herself, including as an integral part of the dedicated and passionate team that successfully worked to retire the debt from the mezzanine loan on YINR's new building. Barbara was also an important voice within the committee established to investigate the shul's expansion, and was an important member of the mechitza committee for the new sanctuary.

Together Barbara and Joel have been highly active in a variety of community projects, such as the New Rochelle Meals on Wheels Program, where Barbara continues to serve as a Vice President. Barbara has also had a lifelong affiliation with AMIT, an organization that provides education and crucial social services to children in Israel. Barbara served for 22 years as a member of AMIT's board and as Chairwoman of the board of governors. AMIT works to positively impact the future of Israel, one child at a time. It is clear both Barbara and Joel have embodied this creed, working with drive and boundless energy to impact the lives of individuals both at home and abroad.

Today, Barbara and Joel cherish their role as grandparents to their five beautiful grandchildren, and parents to their three sons and daughter-in-laws: Henry and Carina, Sammy and Lauren, and Matthew and Emily.

Their passion to help others has built lasting impressions both in New Rochelle and in Israel. Their service is an exemplary legacy, and one that has brought our community closer together. Barbara and Joel are deserving recipients of the Distinguished Leadership Award at Young Israel of New Rochelle's 47th Annual Dinner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 30, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 270 "nay" and on rollcall No. 271, "yea."

SAMMIE MOSHENBERG: AN ACTIVIST FOR JUSTICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep gratitude to Sammie Moshenberg, who is retiring as Director of the Washington Operations of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW).

For more than 30 years, Sammie has represented NCJW in the halls of Congress, and she has been an influential advocate for economic and social justice. It is not just that Sammie herself is a powerful force—she is—but she also represents and coordinates NCJW's network of volunteers across the country. Through that role, Sammie is able to help NCJW members not just understand the legislative process but to show how they can mobilize to affect the outcomes and push for action on critical policy debates.

If there is a fight to improve the lives of children, eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities, end violence, or give women more control over their lives and their futures, Sammie Moshenberg is there. She is always eager to stand up what is just and what is necessary in order to end poverty, promote justice, and help women and families succeed. She embodies the Jewish creed of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world.

Sammie first came to NCJW in 1981, first working in the communications department in the New York headquarters. She came to the Washington office in 1983, where she has represented NCJW in dealing with all three branches of government and in coalitions working on judicial nominations, civil rights, reproductive rights, and economic justice issues. Sammie received her BA from Shimer College in Illinois and a master's degree from Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland. She continues to use the skills she learned there and as a former magazine editor and teacher to train members of Jewish and other faith groups, students, and advocates.

Anyone who has the good fortune of knowing Sammie knows she is much more interested in empowering people to participate in critical national debates and getting the job done than taking credit for her own actions. That is why she and NCJW are so committed to their "Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote" initiative. But Sammie herself has received a great deal of recognition for her efforts. Sammie has appeared on the "Forward Fifty" list of the most influential Jewish individuals three times. She has also been named one of Women's Enews "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" and received the YWCA of the National Capital Area's Racial Justice Award, the Ruth Osborn Award from the Women's Studies Program at George Washington University, and NCJW's Hannah G. Solomon Award.

As if her work at NCJW isn't enough, Sammie is an active member of her community—fighting for housing and economic justice issues in Alexandria, Virginia where she lives and working to expand access to health care and social justice in Cape Town, South Africa, where she and her husband have a second home.

As a Jewish woman, a lifetime member of NCJW, and a Member of Congress, I have relied on Sammie for her wisdom, her knowledge of the ways of Washington, her strategic sense of pushing for progress, and her friendship.

Sammie, I am so appreciative of your leadership and your passion for justice. I know that you will continue to use your many talents to improve your community, our nation and the world.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LESLIE ARNOLD COLLINS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to recognize and honor the memory of Mr. Leslie Arnold Collins. As a veteran, a community leader, and philanthropist, Mr. Collins was a true pillar of the Hanford community. His presence in our community will be greatly missed, but the example by which he lived his life will not soon be forgotten.

Les was born in Danville, Illinois, on April 25, 1922. He was the fourth child born to his parents, William Howard Collins and Mable Arnold Collins. He met his wife, Alice Smith, while visiting his mother in New Mexico and soon married her on December 3, 1949. He and his wife traveled in 1960 to Hanford, California, where they raised three children. He had five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild on the way. Les Collins passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on June 1, 2014, at the age of 92.

Les spent his life serving his country, family and his community. Les served as a combat medic in the Pacific Theater and helped liberate the Philippines during World War II. For

his valor, he was awarded numerous medals, including the Bronze Star.

His service to our nation did not end when he left the military, as he worked tirelessly to support veterans in his community. As a volunteer member of the Honor Flight Network, he raised funds to allow veterans to fly to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at the World War II memorial. He made the trip himself on his 91st birthday on April 25, 2013. In 2009, he was honored as the 30th Assembly District's Veteran of the Year.

As a lifetime member of the Optimist Club, Les embodied the organization's mission of "Bringing out the Best in Kids," by participating in many youth programs and being a positive role model for the young people in our area. In 1984, he was honored as the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Throughout his years of living in Hanford, he was actively involved in various community projects, including being an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts and serving on the Eagle Scout review board. As a civic leader, he was a Hanford planning commissioner, a lifetime member of the Kings County Historical Society, and an election worker for 30 years. It is impossible to list all the contributions Mr. Collins made over his lifetime because there are simply too many to mention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. COSTA and myself in honoring the memory of Mr. Les Collins. He was an inspiration for all, and he led a long life of serving both his country and community. We should all strive to leave such a significant imprint on our communities as Mr Collins did during his lifetime.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP OSCEOLA COUNTY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Leadership Osceola County as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Whereas, the mission of Community Vision is to bring people and resources together to achieve the vision of Osceola County as a progressive community that provides the highest quality of life to residents and visitors;

Whereas, Community Vision has worked very hard since its inception to succeed in its mission and to identify the role of individuals and organizations in achieving its vision;

Whereas, Community Vision has focused on key issues through positive projects, programs, and collaborative activities in order to bring the public and leadership together to move together toward shared community goals and objectives;

Whereas, Leadership Osceola County is an unsurpassed Community Vision leadership development program that began in 1989 and is now celebrating its 25th anniversary with more than 700 leaders graduating from the program after learning of community challenges firsthand and gaining the tools necessary to facilitate positive change within our community; and

Whereas, today, Community Vision remains focused on a shared vision for a better and brighter Osceola County tomorrow by continuing to prepare, inspire, and support leadership for the good of the public;

Whereas, the United States Representative of Florida's Ninth Congressional District is honoring, recognizing and congratulating Leadership Osceola County on its 25th Anniversary.

Now, therefore, I, ALAN GRAYSON, U.S. Representative for Florida's Ninth Congressional District, congratulate Leadership Osceola County on its 25th Anniversary and hereby proclaim the week of June 8, 2014 as Leadership Osceola County Week in the Ninth Congressional District of Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROSE "ROXY" MARIE SANTIAGO

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Rose Marie Santiago. Originally from Old San Juan in Puerto Rico, Rose—or Roxy as she is known to her friends—has lived in Orlando for over 30 years. During this time she has been an active member of the Thornton Park community. She also recently started the popular dog sitting business, "Sit Stay Walk By Roxy," in Orlando.

From 2006 to 2009 Roxy was a Tri-Chair Federal Club Steering Committee member for Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Now she serves on the HRC's Social Media Steering Committee. When she is not campaigning and fundraising for social causes, Roxy repairs personal computers and is a keen practitioner of yoga. She also pours wine for Barefoot Wine's local events.

Earlier in her career, Roxy was employed by such prestigious companies as Disney, where she worked for ten years. Roxy undertook many high-profile responsibilities through her position as a Guest Relations Manager at Disney, and she even acted as a personal tour guide for more than one U.S. President.

Roxy was a partner with Phish Phest Entertainment for ten years. Throughout this time she was instrumental in the organization of a series of events which helped to raise over $150,000 for various charities; the beneficiaries of these funds include Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, the HRC, and Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation. Phish Phest Entertainment also participated in various other charitable events including the Orlando Aids Walk, Smart-Ride, Come out with Pride, Headdress Ball, GayDays, Scooters 4 Hooters, and Score for Kore.

Roxy Santiago is extremely proud of what she has achieved both professionally and personally and continues to dedicate herself to these causes.

I am happy to honor Rose "Roxy" Marie Santiago, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VICKI NANTZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Vicki Nantz. Vicki graduated from Florida State University and began a career in broadcast television. She has produced and directed hundreds of hours of programing through her work for corporate-owned media companies and on projects with renowned talent like Michael Jackson, Tiger Woods and Cheryl Ladd. Although her projects were often rewarding and exciting, Vicki found most to be of little personal significance. Whether it was a talk show, newscast or documentary, the subject matter never seemed to connect with her life.

In 2007, when a young man named Ryan Skipper was murdered in Central Florida simply because he was gay, Vicki felt that it was no longer acceptable to remain silent. She and her partner, Mary Meeks, began to speak publicly about anti-gay hatred. They also began making documentaries about LGBT people in order to put real faces on the issues of hate crimes, adoption, immigration and marriage. Their first documentary was about Ryan Skipper, how he was marginalized and brutalized by his community, how he was failed by his local, state and national governments, and how our anti-gay culture was complicit in his death. The documentary helped generate attention which led to national media coverage when Ryan's killers were tried, convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Acting as the Skipper family's spokesperson during the trial, Vicki was featured in numerous national television interviews which helped raise awareness about anti-gay hate crimes. After watching the documentary, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ referenced Ryan's murder on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2009 she invited Ryan's family to attend the White House signing of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Another of Vicki's documentaries highlighted Florida's anti-gay adoption ban set out in a 33-year-old law which was ruled unconstitutional in 2010. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) utilized the documentary statewide to educate Floridians about the discriminatory law.

As a married couple, Vicki and Mary have continued to produce documentaries on social justice issues, each of which has screened at multiple film festivals and college campuses across the country. Their films have raised awareness about critical issues and helped inspire a new generation of activists. Vicki and Mary have continued to speak out in county chambers and legislative committee rooms, to advocate for long-overdue equality, and to try to change the culture of hatred so that LGBT people can live authentic lives without the fear of violence and intolerance. They do this on behalf of Ryan Skipper and his family.

I am happy to honor Vicki Nantz, during LGBT Pride Month, for her inspiring work to raise awareness about LGBT issues in Central Florida and around the country.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM CLAY HARRIS, JR.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Central Florida community, William Clay Harris, Jr., who passed away on June 2, 2014 at the age of 67. He went peacefully in his home in Gotha, Florida.

Born in Hobart, Oklahoma on June 24, 1946, to the late William Clay Harris, Sr. and Alice Annabel Harris William or "Bill" was the oldest of their four children. He is survived by his three siblings, James Leonard Harris, Joseph Robert Harris, and Rebecca Ann Kellogg. Bill had many fond memories of his early childhood, including the adventures of his beloved family dog, Casey. He developed a love of music in high school where learned to play the trumpet which he continued to play in college. He graduated from Hobart High in 1964 and began his studies at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. After two years, he enlisted in the United States Army where he was

stationed in South Korea as part of the Army Security Agency. He served honorably in the U.S. Army for four years, after which his love of Korean culture compelled him to remain in Korea as an English teacher. He embarked on a solo backpacking trip across the country during which he mastered the Korean language and befriended many locals. He was later recruited by the Country's Ministry of Communications to teach English to a group of Korean telephone operators in Seoul. While in Seoul, he met and fell in love with his future wife of 41 years, Sang Nan Harris, who survives him. Bill would often fondly recount the story of travelling to the city of Kimhe to meet Sang's father, the late Cho Bong Young. He was humbled by his future father-in-law's hospitality and genuine kindness during their introduction.

Bill and Sang returned to Oklahoma where they were married at the First Baptist Church of Hobart on May 18, 1973. Bill continued his studies at Southwestern Oklahoma State University as part of the United States G.I. Bill. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's in Education, while Sang earned a degree from the same institution in Accounting. The newlyweds also started growing their family which includes one daughter and two sons who survive Bill: Julie Suzanne Wade, Matthew Clay Harris, and Kelly Cho Harris.

Bill Harris began a long and successful career as a high school teacher, focusing on the subjects of Economics, History and English as a Second Language. Bill had a passion for education and helping poor and at-risk students, which led him to teach exclusively in underserved schools during his career. In 1983, the family moved from Oklahoma to Houston, Texas where Bill positively impacted the lives of countless students at Stephen F. Austin High School.

His three children remember Bill as, above all, a devoted father. He never missed a Little League game, swim meet, band concert, Boy Scout camping trip or dance recital and provided unending encouragement and support for his children's endeavors. As a father, he also stressed the importance of education and was proud to see his children succeed to become two attorneys and a medical doctor. He always put his family first.

Bill and his family moved from Houston to Orlando, Florida in 1995 in order to pursue a job opportunity for his wife, Sang, as she started her own accounting business. He taught at Evans High School, but later retired in 1998 in order to assist his wife in her growing business. He affectionately described his job title as a ''gopher'' for Sang, referring to the wide variety and high volume of tasks that the business demanded. Bill and Sang saw their three children start careers, get married and grow families of their own. Bill seamlessly transitioned from the role of father to grandfather and was blessed by the time he was able to spend with his six grandchildren. They include Harrison Campbell Wade, McKinley Annabel Wade, Emerson Olivia Wade, Thatcher Holden Wade, William Colton Harris, and Anderson Leigh Harris. He was very proud of his precious grandchildren and loved them all very much.

William Clay Harris leaves behind a legacy of kindness, devotion, and faith. He was a loving and devoted husband and father, a kind and thoughtful friend, and, above all, a man of deep faith. He attended the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Houston and the Faith Family Community Church of the Nazarene and the First Baptist Church of Central Florida in Orlando. During the final years of his life, Bill became increasingly proud of his service to his country and further strengthened his belief in Jesus Christ and His transforming grace.

I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the Central Florida community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 241, ''yea'' and on rollcall No. 242, ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes Nos. 272 through 274. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 272, I would have voted ''yes''. (H.R. 4412, To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

2. On rollcall No. 273, I would have voted ''no''. (Broun Amendment to H.R. 4745, Transportation—Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, reducing funding for Amtrak by $34 million (10% cut))

3. On rollcall No. 274, I would have voted ''no''. (Chabot Amendment to H.R. 4745, Transportation—Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, reduces overall funding for Section 8 housing programs by approximately $3 billion (10% cut))

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (H.R. 4660) is an appropriations bill that funds various Federal Government programs and entities, including the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

My amendment reads as follows, ''None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to compel a journalist or reporter to testify about information or sources that the journalist or reporter states in a motion to quash the subpoena that he has obtained as a journalist or reporter and that he regards as confidential.''

For purposes of this amendment, the definition of a ''reporter'' includes: any person, natural person, or entity who releases, reports on, or provides information of a classified or unclassified nature to a public audience or on the internet, does so on a regular basis, and receives compensation for doing so. The term ''reporter'' is a description of a profession.

For purposes of this amendment, the definition of a ''journalist'' includes: any person, natural person, or entity who releases, reports on, or provides information of a classified or unclassified nature to a public audience or on the internet, and does so on a regular or an irregular basis. The term ''journalism'' describes an act, not a profession. A person, entity, or natural person is a journalist so long as he or she is engaged in the act of journalism. An act of journalism involves the collection, analysis, description, dissemination, and/or publication of information.

James Risen, Julian Assange, Wikileaks, and Glenn Greenwald meet the definitions of reporters and journalists under these definitions.

This amendment also prohibits the use of any funds made available by this Act to compel testimony from any individual who is engaged in journalism in any supporting role, such as assisting a journalist with analysis, collection, description, dissemination, and/or publication of information to a public audience.

Funds appropriated under this Act may not be used to compel testimony by journalists or reporters to reveal confidential sources.

This amendment mirrors the language supplied in other federal statutes defining journalism. For instance, the Freedom of Information Act defines a ''representative of the news media'' as ''any person or entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience.'' 5 U.S.C. § 552(4)(A)(ii)(IIII).

This amendment also follows the spirit of the United States Supreme Court and Circuit Court precedents, which have widely and historically protected the vital newsgathering function performed by journalists. The patriot pamphleteers had no corporate affiliations, no professional societies, and no journalism degrees. The key test is whether individuals are engaged in news-related activities. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger observed that adopting a narrower definition would be ''reminiscent of the abhorred licensing system of Tudor and Stuart England—a system the First Amendment was intended to ban from this country.'' First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti, 435 U.S. 765, 801 (1978) (Burger, C.J., concurring).

Early Supreme Court jurisprudence recognized a broad definition of journalism, noting

that the function of the press is "performed by lecturers, political pollsters, novelists, academic researchers, and dramatists." *Branzburg* v. *Hayes*, 408 U.S. 665, 705 (1972) (Powell, J., concurring); see also *Lovell* v. *Griffin*, 303 U.S. 444, 452 (1932) ("The liberty of the press is not confined to newspapers and periodicals. It necessarily embraces pamphlets and leaflets. These indeed have been historic weapons in the defense of liberty, as the pamphlets of Thomas Paine and others in our own history abundantly attest. The press in its connotation comprehends every sort of publication which affords a vehicle of information and opinion.")

This amendment is consistent with the holdings of several federal appellate circuits which take a functional view of journalism, defining a reporter as an individual who engages in news-related activities to disseminate information to an audience. For example, the First Circuit Court of Appeals has held that reporters should be protected based on function, rather than credentials or status. *Glik* v. *Cunnille*, 655 F.3d 78, 84 (1st Cir. 2011) ("Changes in technology and society have made the lines between private citizen and journalist exceedingly difficult to draw [and] news stories are now just as likely to be broken by a blogger at her computer as a reporter at a major newspaper. Such developments make clear why the news-gathering protections of the First Amendment cannot turn on professional credentials or status."); see also *Von Bulow* v. *Von Bulow*, 811 F.2d 136, 144 (2d Cir. 1987) ("The individual claiming the privilege must demonstrate, through competent evidence, the intent to use material—sought, gathered or received—to disseminate information to the public and [] such intent existed at the inception of the newsgathering process.").

The Second Circuit's standard, based on newsgathering function articulated in Von Bulow, was reiterated by the Ninth and D.C. Circuit Courts. See *Shoen* v. *Shoen*, 5 F.3d 1289, 1293 (9th Cir. 1993); *Alexander* v. *FBI*, 186 F.R.D. 21, 50 (D.D.C. 1998). A similar bar is set in the Tenth Circuit. *Silkwood* v. *Kerr-McGee Corp.*, 563 F.2d 433, 436–37 (10th Cir. 1977) (concluding that a documentary filmmaker was not precluded from the privilege because his mission was investigative reporting for use in preparing a documentary film, regardless of the fact that he was "not a salaried newspaper reporter").

Finally, this amendment is consistent with the views of First Amendment scholars, who agree that a functional definition is most appropriate. See generally Sonja R. West, Awakening the Press Clause, 58 UCLA L. Rev. 1025, 1065–66 (2011) ("[The functional] approach avoids some of the pitfalls of the definition-by-affiliation approach."); see also Linda L. Berger, Shielding the Unmedia: Using the Process of Journalism to Protect the Journalist's Privilege in an Infinite Universe of Publication, 39 Houston L. Rev. 1371, 1407 (2003) ("[N]o patriot printer or colonial pamphleteer had a journalism degree. Certification by a government agency or by a professional group carries the possibility of de-certification based on value judgments or viewpoints.").

This amendment was passed in an environment in which the Department of Justice has increased pressure upon journalists and their sources. Many of the nation's most respected reporters have characterized this as an assault on press freedom that chills investigative reporting and the public's right to know.

Recent revelations that the Department of Justice secretly subpoenaed twenty phones lines at the Associated Press, and a legal brief filed by the Justice Department calling a Fox News journalist a "co-conspirator" for simply protecting a source, have provoked widespread, bipartisan criticism. Many are concerned that the Department of Justice is actively impeding newsgathering activities protected by the First Amendment. The House of Representatives intends, by passing this amendment, to reject this harassment of journalists by the Department of Justice.

Moreover, recently-disclosed digital surveillance activities by the United States government have had an inherent chilling effect on the act of journalism and the exercise of the First Amendment. This amendment is intended to ensure that the rights and newsgathering activities of reporters and journalists are not chilled when uncovering information involving or implicating the United States government or associated institutions. Furthermore, both Congress and the President have recognized the problem of 'over-classification' of documents by agencies across the Federal Government. If journalists are prevented from publishing classified information, and the government classifies enormous quantities of information that should rightfully be in the public domain, the public is prohibited from knowing the workings of its government. Using Federal Government resources to undermine legitimate news-related activities or chill journalism, particularly when those activities aim to disclose the workings of government because that information is classified, constitutes a threat to the self-government of the American public. Federal government attempts to undermine legitimate news-related activities and/or chill journalism, are prohibited by this amendment.

Finally, the act of journalism has been transformed by the internet. New methods for uncovering and publishing newsworthy information, and for financing such newsgathering and dissemination, are now available. This amendment protects the ability for those who may not have traditionally been considered journalists to engage in journalism. It is further intended to allow for experimentation in publication and dissemination of news without the threat of the Department of Justice using its resources to compel the revelation of journalistic sources through legal coercion.

This amendment is to be construed liberally and broadly, to effectuate its purpose of protecting journalists and their sources from any coercive action taken by the government and the legal system. Its spirit applies to other government agencies, and to litigation between private parties. The terms "information or sources" and "confidential" are to be given the widest possible construction. The limitation applies not only to the quashing of subpoenas, but also to every form of discovery, civil and criminal contempt, arrest and imprisonment, and any form of coercion within the legal system.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Missile Defense Agency.

SD–192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD–226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the security, economic and human rights dimensions of United States-Azerbaijan relations.

SR–432

11 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State.

SD–419

2 p.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD–608

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Victor M. Mendez, of Arizona, to be Deputy Secretary, and Peter M. Rogoff, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, Bruce H. Andrews, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, and Marcus Dwayne Jadotte, of

Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis, International Trade Administration, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 919, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on higher education for American Indian students.

SD–628

4 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights

Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

SD–226

5:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the situation in Ukraine.

SVC–217

JUNE 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business, S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, and the nominations of Andre Birotte, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Geoffrey W. Crawford, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, John W. deGravelles, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, Randolph D. Moss, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robin L. Rosenberg, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Ronnie L. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, and Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, all to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD–226

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the importance of child nutrition programs to our nation's health, economy and national security.

SR–328A

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine regional implications of a nuclear deal with Iran.

SD–419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing radiological materials.

SD–342

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH–219

3 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on politics in Thailand.

SVC–217

JUNE 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine conflicts of interest, investor loss of confidence, and high speed trading in the United States stock markets.

SH–216

JUNE 18

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the reduction in face-to-face services at the Social Security Administration.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1948, to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program, S. 1998, to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy, and S. 2299, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

SD–628

3 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine growing small business exports, growing United States Jobs.

SR–428A

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, all of the Department of Defense, and Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

SH–216

JUNE 25

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine brain injuries and diseases of aging.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development, focusing on encouraging investment in Indian country.

SD–628

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3481–S3510

Measures Introduced: Two bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2449–2450, and S.J. Res. 39. **Pages S3507–08**

Measures Considered:

Federal Student Loans—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans. **Pages S3481–82, S3491–92**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. **Page S3491**

Lauck Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. **Pages S3493–S3505**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 176), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S3493**

Sorokin Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Pages S3493–S3505**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. 177), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S3493–94**

Boulware Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada. **Pages S3493–S3505**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. 178), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S3494**

Lauck, Sorokin, Boulware, Brainard, Powell, and Fischer Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, following disposition of the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, the time until 12 noon, be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and Senate vote as under the previous order of Thursday, June 5, 2014; that following disposition of the nominations of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Senate recess until 2:15 p.m., and at 2:15 p.m., the time until 2:30 p.m., be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and at 2:30 p.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nominations of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, all post cloture time be expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, June 12, 2014; that any roll call votes after the first in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to the nominations. **Page S3496**

Nix-Hines Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, with the concurrence of the Republican Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Crystal Nix-Hines, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural

Organization; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nomination; and that no further motions be in order. **Page S3509**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Cary Douglas Pugh, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador to the French Republic.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

Page S3510

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Jeffrey A. Murawsky, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which was sent to the Senate on May 5, 2014.

Page S3510

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S3506, S3509**

Executive Communications: **Page S3506**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S3506–07**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3508–09**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S3509**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3505–06**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S3509**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3509**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3509**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—178) **Pages S3493–94**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 8:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3510.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BORDER PATROL AGENT PAY REFORM ACT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine border security, focusing on the implications of S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents, after receiving testimony from Ronald Vitiello, Deputy Chief, Office of the Border Patrol, and Paul L. Hamrick, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Internal Affairs, both of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; Adam Miles, Deputy Special Counsel, Policy and Congressional Affairs, Office of Special Counsel; and Brandon Judd, National Border Patrol Council, Washington, DC.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 4809–4820; 1 private bill, H.R. 4821; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 116, 612; and H. Res. 613, were introduced. **Pages H5185–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5186–87**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Womack to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5075**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H5076**

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015: The House began consideration of H.R. 4745, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Consideration is expected to continue tomorrow, June 10th.

Pages H5077–H5106, H5149–84

Agreed to:

Walberg amendment that strikes section 102 of the bill, relating to the ability of the Secretary to engage in activities with States to consider proposals related to the reduction of motorcycle fatalities;

Pages H5090–91

Butterfield amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Federal Transit Administration by $2,000,000 for Technical Assistance and Training;

Page H5097

Griffin (AR) amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration by $500,000; **Pages H5097–98**

Duffy amendment that increases funding for continuum of care and rural housing stability assistance programs by $10,000,000; **Pages H5160–61**

Conyers amendment that increases funding for the national homeless data analysis project by $2,000,000; **Page H5161**

Lee amendment that increases funding, by offset, for Fair Housing Activities by $10,000,000; **Page H5164**

Grayson amendment that increases funding for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by HUD by $150,000; **Pages H5164–65**

Waters amendment that prohibits funds from being used to require the relocation, or to carry out any required relocation, of any asset management positions of the Office of Multifamily Housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act; **Pages H5171–72**

Norton amendment that prohibits funds from being used in contravention of the 5th or 14th Amendment to the Constitution or title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; **Page H5174**

DeFazio amendment that prohibits funds from being used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit or exemption application under U.S. law of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene U.S. law or the Agreement; **Pages H5175–76**

Jackson Lee amendment that prohibits funds from being used in contravention of section 5309 of title 49, United States Code; **Page H5176**

DeSantis amendment that prohibits funds from being used to repay any loan made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; **Page H5177**

Grayson amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if that offeror has (1) within a three-year period preceding this offer been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of a fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public 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; **Page H5177**

Garamendi amendment that prohibits funds from being used to develop or implement any rule to modify the criteria relating to citizenship that are applied in determining whether a person is eligible to be an operator of a vessel in the National Defense Reserve Fleet; and **Page H5178**

Gosar amendment that prohibits funds from being used to administer the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Roadside Survey. **Page H5180**

Rejected:

Farenthold amendment that sought to increase funding, by offset, for the Department of Transportation by $6,000,000 for facilities and equipment; **Page H5089**

Broun (GA) amendment that sought to eliminate funding for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation and apply the $340,000,000 in savings to the spending reduction account; **Pages H5095–96**

Broun (GA) amendment that sought to reduce funding for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation by $34,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 154 ayes to 248 noes, Roll No. 273); **Pages H5096, H5149**

Chabot amendment that sought to reduce funding for Public and Indian Housing by $2,910,252,900 for section 8 housing programs and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 127 ayes to 279 noes, Roll No. 274); **Pages H5104, H5149–50**

Poe (TX) amendment that sought to strike section 165 of the bill, relating to a new light or heavy rail project to be constructed on Richmond Avenue west of South Shepherd Drive or on Post Oak Boulevard north of Richmond Avenue in Houston, Texas (agreed by unanimous consent to withdraw the request for a recorded vote to the end that the amendment stand rejected by the earlier voice vote thereon); **Pages H5098–H5100, H5150**

Broun (GA) amendment that sought to reduce funding for the community development block grant program by $200,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account; and **Page H5159**

Grayson amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to authorize, approve, or implement

a toll on existing free lanes on any segment of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida. **Page H5183**

Withdrawn:

Duffy amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have inserted language relating to vehicles transporting raw or unfinished forest product on I–39 in Wisconsin between certain mile markers; **Pages H5193–94**

Jackson Lee amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding, by offset, for Policy Development and Research, Research and Technology by $1,000,000; and **Pages H5163–64**

Lowenthal amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have allowed unobligated funds made available to a State in fiscal year 2010 for the Interstate Maintenance Discretionary program under section 118(c) of title 23, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act to be made available to the State for any project eligible under section 133(b) of such title. **Pages H5176–77**

Point of Order sustained against:

Meehan amendment that sought to increase funding, by offset, for the Federal Railroad Administration by $3,000,000; **Pages H5088–89**

Nadler amendment that sought to increase funding for Public and Indian Housing by $988,471,000 for the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program; **Pages H5104–05**

Himes amendment that sought to insert a new section providing for the establishment of a budget-neutral demonstration program for mulitfamily housing energy and water conservation; **Pages H5168–69**

Burgess amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used by the Secretary of Transportation to authorize a person (1) to operate an unmanned aircraft system in the national airspace for the purpose of using the unmanned aircraft system as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against a person or property or (2) to manufacture, sell, or distribute an unmanned aircraft system, or a component thereof, for use in the national airspace system as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against a person or property; **Page H5172**

Garamendi amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used for recapitalization of the Ready Reserve Force of the National Defense Reserve Fleet except in a manner consistent with the Buy American Act; **Page H5181**

Grayson amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to make bonus awards to contractors for work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget; **Pages H5181–82**

Garamendi amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used on a transportation project unless all contracts carried out within the scope of the applicable National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 finding, determination, or decision are Buy American compliant; and **Pages H5182–83**

Grayson amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to provide a per-passenger subsidy in excess of $250 under the Essential Air Service program. **Pages H5183–84**

Proceedings Postponed:

Gohmert amendment that seeks to reduce funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund by $7,100,000 and the Public Housing Operating Fund by $17,600,000 and apply the $24,700,000 in savings to the spending reduction account; **Pages H5155–56**

Nadler amendment that seeks to increase funding, by offset, for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program by $29,100,000; **Pages H5157–58**

Capito amendment that seeks to increase funding, by offset, for the Community Development Fund by $100,000,000 for carrying out the community development block grant program; **Pages H5158–59**

Broun (GA) amendment that seeks to reduce funding for the community development block grant program by $20,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account; **Pages H5159–60**

Broun (GA) amendment that seeks to reduce funding for Rental Housing Assistance by $7,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account; **Pages H5162–63**

Broun (GA) amendment that seeks to reduce funding for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Office of Inspector General by $1,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account; **Pages H5169–70**

Hartzler amendment that seeks to prohibit funds from being used to enforce section 319 of title 23, United States Code; **Pages H5173–74**

Daines amendment that seeks to prohibit funds from being used to develop, issue, or implement regulations that increase levels of minimum financial responsibility for transporting passengers or property as in effect on January 1, 2014, under regulations issued pursuant to sections 31138 and 31139 of title 49, United States Code; **Pages H5174–75**

Gosar amendment that seeks to prohibit funds from being used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to retain any legal counsel who is not an employee of such Department or the Department of Justice; **Pages H5177–78**

Gosar amendment that seeks to prohibit funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing'', published by the Department

of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on July 19, 2013; and **Pages H5178–80**

Fleming amendment that seeks to prohibit funds from being used to acquire a camera for the purpose of collecting or storing vehicle license plate numbers. **Pages H5180–81**

H. Res. 604, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4745) and (H.R. 4681), was agreed to on May 30th.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Urging the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014: H. Res. 600, amended, to urge the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014, while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers; **Pages H5106–08**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014: H.R. 4412, amended, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 401 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 272; **Pages H5108–26, H5148**

Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act: S. 1254, amended, to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998; **Pages H5126–30**

Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act: H.R. 2072, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H5130–34**

Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: H. Con. Res. 100, to authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; **Pages H5134–36**

Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg: S. Con. Res. 36, to permit the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg; **Pages H5136–37**

Mortgage Choice Act: H.R. 3211, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction; **Pages H5137–38**

Amending the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa: H.R. 1679, amended, to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa; and **Pages H5138–39**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.". **Page H5139**

DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act: H.R. 4228, amended, to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management. **Pages H5139–48**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the tragic incident in Las Vegas, NV on Sunday, June 8th. **Pages H5148–49**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H5077.

Senate Referral: S. 1044 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5148, H5149, and H5150. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee began markup on H.R. 4795, the "Promoting New Manufacturing Act"; H.R. 4801, to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water; H.R. 4299, the "Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act"; H.R. 4709, the "Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act"; and H.R. 4631, the "Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2014".

DATA MANIPULATION AND ACCESS TO VA HEALTHCARE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Oversight Hearing on Data Manipulation and Access to VA Healthcare: Testimony from GAO, IG and VA". Testimony was heard from Debra A. Draper, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Philip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Richard J. Griffin, Acting Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on the Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl prisoner exchange, 9 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's semi-annual report to Congress, 10:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Oversight, to hold hearings to examine protecting taxpayers and ensuring accountability, focusing on faster Superfund cleanups for healthier communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce, to hold hearings to examine Federal and information technology (IT) initiatives and the IT workforce, focusing on a more efficient and effective government, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Energy and Water, markup on Energy and Water Appropriations Bill FY 2015, 8:45 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on Defense Appropriations Bill FY 2015, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled "A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Reforming Federal Aid", 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "The Regulatory and Enforcement Priorities of the EEOC: Examining the Concerns of Stakeholders", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4795, the "Promoting New Manufacturing Act"; H.R. 4801, to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water; H.R. 4299, the "Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act"; H.R. 4709, the "Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act"; and H.R. 4631, the "Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2014", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4697, the "Small-Cap Access to Capital Act"; H.R. 2629, the "Fostering Innovation Act of 2013"; H.R. 4564, the "Equity Crowdfunding Improvement Act of 2014"; H.R. 4809, the Defense Production Act to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purpose; H.R. 3770, the "CFPB–IG Act of 2013"; H.R. 4262, the "Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act"; H.R. 4383, the "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Small Business Advisory Board Act"; H.R. 4539, the "Bureau Research Transparency Act"; H.R. 4604, the "CFPB Data Collection Security Act"; H.R. 4811, the "Bureau Guidance Transparency Act"; H.R. 3389, the "CFPB Slush Fund Elimination Act"; H.R. 4662, the "Bureau Advisory Opinion Act"; H.R. 4804, the "Bureau Examination Fairness Act"; legislation regarding a 6-month moratorium on the authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to make financial stability determinations; and H.R. 4387, the "FSOC Transparency and Accountability Act", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Verifying Iran's Nuclear Compliance", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "Examining U.S. Reconstruction Efforts in Afghanistan", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade hearing entitled "The State Department's Counterterrorism Bureau: Budget, Programs, and Evaluation", 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled "BioWatch: Lessons Learned and the Path Forward", 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Music Licensing Under Title 17 Part One'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled ''The State of Religious Liberty in the United States'', 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''Whole Lotta Shakin': An Examination of America's Earthquake Early Warning System Development and Implementation'', 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 318, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance; H.R. 4029, to require the Secretary of the Interior to transfer all Federal land, facilities, and any other assets associated with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri for the purposes of maintaining a State park, and for other purposes; H.R. 4049, the ''Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act''; H.R. 4182, to provide that the Ozark National Scenic Riverways shall be administered in accordance with the general management plan for that unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 4272, the ''Forest Access in Rural Communities Act''; H.R. 4283, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; H.R. 4489, the ''World War I Memorial Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4527, to remove a use restriction on land formerly a part of Acadia National Park that was transferred to the town of Tremont, Maine, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 3716, the ''Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe—Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act''; H.R. 4166, the ''Lake Berryessa Recreation Enhancement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4508, to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services; and H.R. 4562, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Social Security Administration Oversight: Examining the Integrity of the Disability Determination Appeals Process'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4453, the ''Permanent S Corporation Built-in Gains Recognition Period Act of 2014''; H.R. 4457, the ''America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4800, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''A Review of the P5: The U.S. Vision for Particle Physics After Discovery of the Higgs Boson'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Health, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''Verification of Income and Insurance Information Under the Affordable Care Act'', 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of June 10 through June 13, 2014

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at 10 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. At 12 noon, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada. At 2:30 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nominations of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

On *Wednesday,* Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2432, Federal student loans.

On *Thursday,* if cloture in invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: June 12, to hold hearings to examine the importance of child nutrition programs to our nation's health, economy and national security, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: June 10, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

June 11, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Missile Defense Agency, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: June 10, to receive a closed briefing on the Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl prisoner exchange, 9 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: June 10, to hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's semi-annual report to Congress, 10:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: June 11, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 2 p.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: June 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Victor M. Mendez, of Arizona, to be Deputy Secretary, and Peter M. Rogoff, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, Bruce H. Andrews, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, and Marcus Dwayne Jadotte, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis, International Trade Administration, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: June 10, Subcommittee on Oversight, to hold hearings to examine protecting taxpayers and ensuring accountability, focusing on faster Superfund cleanups for healthier communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: June 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State, 11 a.m., SD–419.

June 11, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on the situation in Ukraine, 5:15 p.m., SVC–217.

June 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine regional implications of a nuclear deal with Iran, 10 a.m., SD–419.

June 12, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on politics in Thailand, 3 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: June 10, Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce, to hold hearings to examine Federal and information technology (IT) initiatives and the IT workforce, focusing on a more efficient and effective government, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

June 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 10 a.m., SD–342.

June 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine securing radiological materials, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: June 11, business meeting to consider S. 919, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on higher education for American Indian students, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: June 11, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–226.

June 11, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, business meeting to consider S. J.Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections, 4 p.m., SD–226.

June 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, and the nominations of Andre Birotte, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Geoffrey W. Crawford, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, John W. deGravelles, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, Randolph D. Moss, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robin L. Rosenberg, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Ronnie L. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, and Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, all to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: June 10, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

June 12, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, June 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Water, markup on Energy and Water Appropriations Bill FY 2015, 8:45 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

June 10, Full Committee, markup on Defense Appropriations Bill FY 2015, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

June 11, Full Committee, markup on Homeland Security Appropriations Bill FY 2015; and Revised Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2015, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, June 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The May 31, 2014 Transfer of Five Senior Taliban Detainees'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Reforming Federal Aid'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, June 10, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''The Regulatory and Enforcement Priorities of the EEOC: Examining the Concerns of Stakeholders'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, June 10, Full Committee, continued markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4795, the ''Promoting New Manufacturing Act''; H.R. 4801, to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water; H.R. 4299, the ''Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act''; H.R. 4709, the ''Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act''; and H.R. 4631, the ''Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2014'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''21st Century Cures: Examining the Role of Incentives in Advancing Treatments and Cures for Patients'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Media Ownership in the 21st Century'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 12, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''The President's Health Care Law Does Not Equal Health Care Access'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, June 10, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4697, the ''Small-Cap Access to Capital Act''; H.R. 2629, the ''Fostering Innovation Act of 2013''; H.R. 4564, the ''Equity Crowdfunding Improvement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4809, the Defense Production Act to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purpose; H.R. 3770, the ''CFPB–IG Act of 2013''; H.R. 4262, the ''Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act''; H.R. 4383, the ''Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Small Business Advisory Board Act''; H.R. 4539, the ''Bureau Research Transparency Act''; H.R. 4604, the ''CFPB Data Collection Security Act''; H.R. 4811, the ''Bureau Guidance Transparency Act''; H.R. 3389, the ''CFPB Slush Fund Elimination Act''; H.R. 4662, the ''Bureau Advisory Opinion Act''; H.R. 4804, the ''Bureau Examination Fairness Act''; legislation regarding a 6-month moratorium on the authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to make financial stability determinations; and H.R. 4387, the ''FSOC Transparency and Accountability Act'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''The Production and Circulation of Coins and Currency'', 11:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Verifying Iran's Nuclear Compliance'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 10, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Examining U.S. Reconstruction Efforts in Afghanistan'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 10, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade hearing entitled ''The State Department's Counterterrorism Bureau: Budget, Programs, and Evaluation'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Assessing Energy Priorities in the Middle East and North Africa'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Ongoing Struggle Against Boko Haram'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, June 10, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''BioWatch: Lessons Learned and the Path Forward'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

June 11, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3202, the ''Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act''; H.R. 3488, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes; H.R. 3846, the ''United States Customs and Border Protection Authorization Act''; H.R. 4263, the ''Social Media Working Group Act of 2014''; H.R. 4289, the ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act''; H.R. 4802, the ''Airport Security Enhancement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4803, the ''TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4812, the ''Honor Flight Act'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, June 10, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Music Licensing Under Title 17 Part One'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 10, Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled ''The State of Religious Liberty in the United States'', 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, June 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''Whole Lotta Shakin': An Examination of America's Earthquake Early Warning System Development and Implementation'', 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

June 10, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 318, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance; H.R. 4029, to require the Secretary of the Interior to transfer all Federal land, facilities, and any other assets associated with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri for the purposes of maintaining a State park, and for other purposes; H.R. 4049, the ''Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act''; H.R. 4182, to provide that the Ozark National Scenic

Riverways shall be administered in accordance with the general management plan for that unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 4272, the ''Forest Access in Rural Communities Act''; H.R. 4283, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; H.R. 4489, the ''World War I Memorial Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4527, to remove a use restriction on land formerly a part of Acadia National Park that was transferred to the town of Tremont, Maine, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 10, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 3716, the ''Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe—Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act''; H.R. 4166, the ''Lake Berryessa Recreation Enhancement Act of 2014''; H.R. 4508, to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services; and H.R. 4562, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 12, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''American Energy Jobs: Opportunities for Innovation'', 9:30 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Social Security Administration Oversight: Examining the Integrity of the Disability Determination Appeals Process'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Social Security Administration Oversight: Examining the Integrity of the Disability Determination Appeals Process, Part II'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, June 10, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4453, the ''Permanent S Corporation Built-in Gains Recognition Period Act of 2014''; H.R. 4457, the ''America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4800, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, June 10, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''A Review of the P5: The U.S. Vision for Particle Physics After Discovery of the Higgs Boson'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Energy, markup on committee print, the Department of Energy and Research and Development Act of 2014, 12 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

June 12, Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''Reducing the Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, June 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''FAA's 2020 NextGen Mandate: Benefits and Challenges for General Aviation'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, June 11, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''Potential Impacts of Proposed Changes to the Clean Water Act Jurisdictional Rule'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, June 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''An Examination of Bureaucratic Barriers to Care for Veterans'', 9:15 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 10, Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Health, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''Verification of Income and Insurance Information Under the Affordable Care Act'', 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

June 11, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled ''Advancing the U.S. Trade Agenda: Benefits of Expanding U.S. Agriculture Trade and Eliminating Barriers to U.S. Exports'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, June 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., 304–HVC. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: June 11, to hold hearings to examine the security, economic and human rights dimensions of United States-Azerbaijan relations, 10 a.m., SR–432.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. At 12 noon, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada. At 2:30 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nominations of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(Senate will recess following the vote on confirmation of the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 10

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Continue consideration of H.R. 4745—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.

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