

customers rely on commercial space launch, the industry for safe, reliable, and effective service, and delivering payloads in orbit and providing related space transportation services.

Just recently, in September of this year, a commercial space launch provider successfully lofted a cargo capsule into space to carry supplies to the international space station. This is exactly what we have in mind when we talk about integrating our commercial launch capacity with what we do already at NASA in terms of our scientific endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, commercial space transportation services have really always been carried out in partnership with the United States Government through the use of Federal launch ranges and services, for example, and through the government risk-sharing regime for protecting the uninvolved public and property should an accident occur. So it seems quite fitting that we have reached this point today.

Unfortunately, the reason that we are only able to do a 1-year extension and can agree on that is because there are also some other things that we need to figure out for the future with respect to the involvement of the commercial industry. It is my hope that over the course of this 1 year we will use that time wisely here in the Congress to have the kind of oversight hearings that we need to bring in the FAA so that we can make sure that we are venturing in this direction in the right kind of way that really takes into consideration what we are doing in the 21st century.

New entrants are delivering spacecraft to orbit, commercial resupply services to the international space station, and companies are working toward providing commercial human spaceflight on both reusable suborbital vehicles and orbital human spaceflight systems.

In fact, although I have been, admittedly, a skeptic, I am excited about the potential of the industry and I want it to succeed. Just last year, in a hearing on launch indemnification before the committee's Space Subcommittee of which I am the ranking member, a senior official representing the Aerospace Industries Association characterized the continuation of U.S. space launch indemnification as providing "substantial upside potential to enable new markets, create jobs, and assure U.S. space technology leadership for the 21st century."

It is easy to see how that upside is both national and local in scope. The launch capability at nearby Wallace air facility on the eastern shore is becoming a critical link to resupplying the international space station.

Commercial space companies make investments in our economy and create jobs all across the country. Specifically, in my home State of Maryland, companies like Lockheed Martin, Orbital, and Northrop Grumman employ thousands of people in my district

alone creating high-tech jobs, high-skilled jobs in the local community. ATK is a leading aerospace provider and has its main headquarters right up in Beltsville, Maryland, not very far from here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure that our legislation and policies regarding commercial space transportation reflect the changing industry, changes and activities that may not have been contemplated when the liability indemnification regime was first established. This 1-year extension provides Congress the opportunity to consider any potential changes that might be needed to ensure the continued safety of the public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join us today in supporting H.R. 3547.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield back the balance of my time if the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) is prepared to yield back her time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3547, the Space Launch Liability Indemnification Extension Act.

The United States space program has existed for over half a century and my commitment to providing NASA with the resources to carry the agency forward with its ambitious agenda of research, exploration, and discovery is unwavering.

In June 2012, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and NASA signed an agreement to coordinate standards for commercial space travel of government and non-government astronauts to and from low-Earth orbit and the International Space Station (ISS).

The FAA regulates and licenses all U.S. private companies and individuals seeking to engage in commercial space transportation. The FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation has licensed 207 successful launches, including two non-orbital commercial human space flights in 2004 and the recent first launch to the ISS and re-entry of a non-manned commercial spacecraft. For details on FAA commercial space transportation responsibilities, visit:

The two agencies agreed to join efforts to expand commercial and non-commercial space exploration by creating a framework for the U.S. space industry. The two agencies will be able to avoid conflict regarding requirements and standards for the purpose of advancing both public and crew safety.

This is an important collaboration that for the private sector is a good sign for companies seeking to reap commercial benefits that may be found in spaceflight investments.

NASA continues to push the boundaries of what is possible, keeping our Nation on the forefront of innovation and exploration. It is the responsibility of this Congress to ensure that the future of NASA is one of continued progress.

Space exploration remains a part of our national destiny. It inspires our children to look to the stars and dream of what they too, one

day, may achieve. Space exploration allows us to push the bounds of our scientific knowledge, as we carry out research projects not possible within the constraints of the planet Earth.

Because of the ground breaking work of NASA commercial applications for space, such as commercial satellites have become critical for mobile communication services.

Smartphones rely upon commercial satellite to function, which makes possible the communication revolution we are witnessing today.

Today, the ground work done to advance knowledge regarding space exploration has reached a point where private sector companies are exploring ways to commercialize space exploration.

For example, Companies like Virgin now operates Virgin Galactic has completed its second test flight for commercialization of space travel and is selling passenger tickets for its first flight. However, we must still fully fund NASA and U.S. public space exploration.

A critical milestone for space exploration will be successful commercial efforts to provide services or develop new methods of manufacturing that are space based or the exploration of neighboring bodies for discovery of rare earth minerals or discovery of more abundant sources of elements or resources that can aid human development.

H.R. 3547, the Space Launch Liability Indemnification Extension Act provides a means of making it possible for private companies to pursue commercial space projects.

I ask my colleagues to support this effort to make the next step in human development of space a successful one by joining me in voting in support of H.R. 3547, the Space Launch Liability Indemnification Extension Act.

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. 3547.

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.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY ACT OF 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3588) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt fire hydrants from the prohibition on the use of lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3588

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 "Community Fire Safety Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. EXEMPTING FIRE HYDRANTS FROM PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEAD.

Section 1417(a)(4)(B) of the Safe Drinking Water Act is amended by inserting "fire hydrants," after "shower valves,".

SEC. 3. EVALUATION OF SOURCES OF LEAD IN WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS AND ALTERNATE ROUTING SYSTEMS.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) consult with and seek the advice of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council on potential changes to the regulations pertaining to lead under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.); and

(2) request the Council to consider sources of lead throughout drinking water distribution systems, including through components used to reroute drinking water during distribution system repairs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, many Members think that the suspension calendar is reserved for unimportant legislation. That is not the case today. It is reserved for bills that need no amendments and on which more than two-thirds of the House agrees. The Community Fire Safety Act of 2013 meets those two tests.

Sometimes when we budget our time, we ask ourselves, what should I work on first, the urgent or the important? H.R. 3588 is both urgent and important. It corrects a problem that first surfaced in October of this year, but which impacts all water utilities and firefighting units in the United States effective next month.

Water utilities have made it clear that they have two choices come January 4: fail to comply with Federal law, or leave gaps in critical fire hydrant service. No one should ever face that choice.

Here is the background. On January 4, 2011, the President signed into law the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act. This law prohibits the manufacturing and installation of pipes, fittings, and fixtures that have lead content of greater than two-tenths of 1 percent, but it exempts specific items, including tub fillers and shower valves. There is also a general exemption for pipes, fittings, and fixtures where the water is not anticipated to be consumed.

The effective date of the law is January 4, 2014, the beginning of next month. I am told that when Congress wrote this law in 2010 and the President signed it in 2011, the issue of fire hydrants never entered the conversa-

tion—nor did the EPA suggest that fire hydrants were covered, at least not until October of this year, 10 short weeks before the law takes effect.

On October 22, the EPA announced that because fire hydrants are occasionally, but rarely, used in the stream of human water consumption, they are not exempt under the act. This means any hydrant manufactured or installed 33 days from now must have a lead content that meets the statutory standard.

The EPA's conclusion was based on a technical reading of the statute. Because the rule's announcement takes effect in early January, the solution is this brief but important legislation.

The worry for water utilities and firefighters is that hydrants can break without warning, often as a result of vehicular accidents. Winter is a busy time for replacing hydrants due, in part, to freezing road conditions. But neither water utilities nor firefighters can tolerate hydrants that are not certified to meet strict performance parameters. Hydrants must never get stuck closed and should never leak.

Why do hydrants contain tiny amounts of lead in the brass alloys in their valves and other parts? Because that alloy gives a cleaner fit that doesn't leak and doesn't get stuck. Confidence that a hydrant meets this standard is crucial.

Mr. Speaker, even though a couple of manufacturers claim to have developed hydrants that can meet today's lead-free standard, none of them claims independent verification of the lead-free standard, much less proof that the extreme low-lead hydrant will work for fire safety. If such hydrants are developed and later certified, communities will certainly always be free to choose them. But in the meantime, the 2010 law is unforgiving.

□ 1730

It does not allow exemptions for even the least frequent and briefest exposures to water that may pass through a hydrant. Communities that never allow any human consumption from a hydrant will be barred from installing hydrants that today are in stock and ready to meet emergency repairs.

The risk to human health from lead in water is from long-term exposure. That is why there is no scientific data showing health effects from people drinking water from hydrants. But there are documented times when firefighters have arrived on the emergency scene only to find the hydrant is out of service. This leads to tragedy we can and must avoid.

If shower valves and tub fillers should be exempt—and they are—let's exempt hydrants so there are no gaps in fire safety. I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3588.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be here with my colleague from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) in support of H.R. 3588.

As we heard, 3 years ago, Congress passed important legislation to reduce lead in drinking water supplies by eliminating a very significant remaining source of lead—our water delivery infrastructure. The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to address the high levels of lead documented in the drinking water in many communities.

Lead is a very dangerous contaminant, and it is especially dangerous to our children. It is retained in their bodies and leads to a host of chronic problems. We need to remove lead from our drinking water, but we do not need to regulate fire hydrants to achieve this worthy and important goal.

Fire hydrants are rarely used to provide drinking water, and those rare occasions are during emergencies—for instance, the break of a water main. And, when these rare events occur, flushing the hydrant is sufficient to ensure that lead and other contaminants are not conveyed in the water.

As sometimes happens, Mr. Speaker, laws have unintended consequences. When Congress passed the amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act 3 years ago, I doubt anyone intended to have EPA regulate fire hydrants.

EPA hosted a webinar on this issue recently. The agency consulted stakeholders from the hydrant manufacturing industry, municipalities from across our country, State and city regulatory agencies, and water supply companies. These sources provided the Agency with information to demonstrate that regulating hydrants would be expensive to implement, and it would deliver virtually no additional public health benefits.

Closer to home, I heard from two municipalities in my district, Latham and Colonie, both in Albany County. Their local leaders were very concerned about the expense of replacing their inventory of fire hydrants and about problems that could arise if they were unable to service and replace hydrants in a timely manner.

As we all know, fire hydrants are a vital part of the safety infrastructure of every community, large or small, across this great country. I am told the average cost is as high as \$2,000 per hydrant, if not more. Most communities keep a reserve inventory so hydrants can be replaced as needed. Without this fix, communities across the country would be spending millions to replace inventories of working hydrants.

Not only would communities have to replace their inventory of hydrants, but there is a real question about the availability of lead-free alternatives. The supply of lead-free hydrants is still small, and some newer designs have yet to be tested and certified fully.

Well, we certainly do not need to impose unnecessary costs on our communities across this country. We can fix this problem, and we are moving forward with a sound and effective solution today.

H.R. 3588 adds fire hydrants to the list of plumbing fixtures and other

components of water infrastructure that are exempted from the requirements to reduce lead. H.R. 3588 is a simple, bipartisan bill that provides a straightforward correction to the law. It will save our communities money and time, two very important commodities.

In addition, the bill contains a provision requiring the EPA Administrator to consult with the Drinking Water Advisory Council on options for reducing lead in our drinking water in a cost-effective manner. Hopefully, this dialogue will provide more cost-effective options for achieving a worthy goal: cleaner, safer drinking water.

Again, I want to commend our colleague, Representative JOHNSON, for his work on this legislation and thank him for working together with me to ensure that communities can concentrate on efforts that will bring true public health improvements to our citizens and avoid unnecessary expenses that achieve no real benefits.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further Members who wish to speak on this issue. If my good friend is prepared to summarize, I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers here on our side.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio; I want to thank Chairman UPTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Ranking Member WAXMAN of the same committee for expediting this very important bill. Again, I urge all of our colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I too want to say thanks to my good friend and colleague, Mr. TONKO, for his support of this legislation. It may seem trivial to some; but trust me, it is not trivial to the many communities who are sitting on stockpiles, literally millions of dollars worth of current hydrant technology that would have to be replaced as a result, and that money just going down the tubes. I, too, urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3588.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3588.

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. JOHNSON of Ohio. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules and passing:

H.R. 3547, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3588, by the yeas and nays; and Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SPACE LAUNCH LIABILITY INDEMNIFICATION EXTENSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3547) to extend the application of certain space launch liability provisions through 2014, 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 5, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 612]

YEAS—376

Aderholt	Braley (IA)	Clyburn
Amodei	Brooks (AL)	Coffman
Andrews	Brooks (IN)	Cohen
Bachmann	Brownley (CA)	Cole
Bachus	Buchanan	Collins (GA)
Barber	Bucshon	Collins (NY)
Barletta	Burgess	Conaway
Barr	Bustos	Connolly
Barrow (GA)	Butterfield	Conyers
Barton	Calvert	Cook
Bass	Camp	Cooper
Beatty	Cantor	Costa
Becerra	Capito	Cotton
Benishke	Capps	Courtney
Bentivolio	Capuano	Crawford
Bera (CA)	Cárdenas	Crenshaw
Bilirakis	Carney	Crowley
Bishop (NY)	Carson (IN)	Cuellar
Black	Cartwright	Cummings
Blackburn	Castor (FL)	Daines
Blumenauer	Chabot	Davis (CA)
Bonamici	Chu	Davis, Danny
Boustany	Clarke	Davis, Rodney
Brady (PA)	Clay	DeFazio
Brady (TX)	Cleaver	DeGette

Delaney	King (NY)	Rahall
DelBene	Kingston	Rangel
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Reed
Dent	Kirkpatrick	Reichert
DeSantis	Kuster	Renacci
DesJarlais	Labrador	Rice (SC)
Deutch	LaMalfa	Richmond
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Rigell
Dingell	Lance	Roby
Doggett	Langevin	Roe (TN)
Doyle	Lankford	Rogers (KY)
Duckworth	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (MI)
Duffy	Larson (CT)	Rohrabacher
Duncan (SC)	Latham	Rokita
Duncan (TN)	Latta	Rooney
Edwards	Lee (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Ellison	Levin	Roskam
Ellmers	Lewis	Ross
Engel	LoBiondo	Rothfus
Esty	Loeb sack	Roybal-Allard
Farenthold	Lofgren	Royce
Fattah	Long	Ruiz
Fincher	Lowenthal	Runyan
Fitzpatrick	Lowe	Ruppersberger
Fleischmann	Lucas	Ryan (OH)
Fleming	Luetkemeyer	Ryan (WI)
Flores	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Salmon
Forbes	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Fortenberry	Lynch	Sarbanes
Foster	Maffei	Scalise
Fox	Marchant	Schakowsky
Frankel (FL)	Marino	Schiff
Franks (AZ)	Matheson	Schneider
Frelinghuysen	Matsui	Schock
Fudge	McAllister	Schrader
Gabbard	McCarthy (CA)	Schweikert
Gallego	McCaull	Scott (VA)
Garamendi	McClintock	Scott, Austin
Garcia	McCollum	Scott, David
Gardner	McDermott	Sensenbrenner
Garrett	McGovern	Serrano
Gerlach	McHenry	Sessions
Gibbs	McIntyre	Sewell (AL)
Gibson	McKeon	Shea-Porter
Goodlatte	McKinley	Sherman
Gosar	McNerney	Shimkus
Gowdy	Meadows	Shuster
Graves (GA)	Meehan	Simpson
Grayson	Meeks	Sinema
Green, Al	Meng	Slaughter
Green, Gene	Messer	Smith (MO)
Griffin (AR)	Mica	Smith (NE)
Griffith (VA)	Michaud	Smith (NJ)
Grimm	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Guthrie	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Hahn	Moore	Stivers
Hall	Moran	Stockman
Hanabusa	Mullin	Stutzman
Hanna	Mulvaney	Swalwell (CA)
Harper	Murphy (FL)	Takano
Harris	Murphy (PA)	Terry
Hartzler	Nadler	Thompson (MS)
Hastings (FL)	Napolitano	Thompson (PA)
Heck (NV)	Neal	Thornberry
Heck (WA)	Negrete McLeod	Tiberi
Hensarling	Neugebauer	Tierney
Higgins	Noem	Tipton
Himes	Nolan	Titus
Hinojosa	Nugent	Tonko
Holding	Nunes	Tsongas
Holt	Nunnelee	Turner
Honda	O'Rourke	Upton
Horsford	Olson	Valadao
Hoyer	Owens	Van Hollen
Huelskamp	Palazzo	Vargas
Huizenga (MI)	Pallone	Veasey
Hultgren	Paulsen	Vela
Hunter	Payne	Velázquez
Hurt	Pearce	Visclosky
Israel	Pelosi	Wagner
Issa	Perlmutter	Walberg
Jackson Lee	Perry	Walden
Jeffries	Peters (CA)	Walorski
Jenkins	Peters (MI)	Walz
Johnson (GA)	Peterson	Waters
Johnson (OH)	Petri	Watt
Johnson, E. B.	Pingree (ME)	Waxman
Johnson, Sam	Pittenger	Weber (TX)
Jordan	Pitts	Webster (FL)
Joyce	Pocan	Welch
Kaptur	Poe (TX)	Wenstrup
Kapur	Kelly (IL)	Westmoreland
Keating	Kelly (PA)	Whitfield
Kelly (IL)	Kennedy	Williams
Kelly (PA)	Kildee	Posey
Kennedy	Kilmer	Pompeo
Kildee	Kind	Price (CA)
Kilmer	King (IA)	Price (NC)
Kind		Price (NC)
King (IA)		Quigley
		Wolf