

front of us on the House Armed Services Committee a couple weeks ago, where they said, related to this strategy, hope is not a strategy, but it looks like that is exactly what we are relying on. We are hoping that the Iraqis have an inclusive government, which they have shown time and time again that they are failing to do.

While Iraq has their national security interests certainly in the region, we have our own interests in making sure that ISIS does not gain a strong foothold with resources and the desire to recruit, train, and inspire individuals to attack Americans and take away our way of life. This strategy has just been failed coming out of this administration.

Russia, just another example, the squadron that I commanded is soon coming back from a deployment to Russia, A-10s over in the region to help assure and train our allies against the continued aggression that we are seeing from Russia.

Our incoming potential Chairman of the Joint Chiefs declared last week in a hearing that he believes Russia is actually the largest threat that we are potentially dealing with; yet the weakness from this administration in standing up and leading to defend our national security interests and reassure our allies is allowing Putin to fill that vacuum.

The Baltics and the other allies that are in the region, after basically the Russians were able to invade Ukraine, are wondering who is next and what is at stake with our NATO partners. This is just another example.

What China is doing in the South and East China Seas is just one more example of us not leading and not being able to assure our allies, showing weakness. Our friends are wondering can they count on us anymore, and our enemies are no longer afraid of us. This is the dangerous world we are in.

Some of these factors were going to be happening anyway, but American leadership can make or break situations, and we can change the course of international events if we are leading or not leading. This administration says that they are leading from behind. In the military, we call that following. There is no such thing as leading from behind.

We need to make sure we have a strong national security strategy, that we have a capable military. The impact sequestration is having on our military, I have friends and individuals I know that are still serving and trying to serve, and they are rearranging deck chairs right now, trying to deal with the lack of resources and diminishing capabilities in training and readiness.

That is not a strategy-based budget; that is a budget-based strategy. I have been very strong in speaking against sequestration. I think we need to work together in order to make sure we can give the men and women in the military everything they need to defend America.

The last point I will make—and there are many to make, but we don't have enough time—is that we have passed the National Defense Authorization Act for the last 54 years.

□ 1700

This is an important piece of legislation that gives the troops the authorization, the pay raises, and everything that they need—combating sexual assault—all the different things that we have authorized in the NDAA, and this President is threatening to veto it.

I really hope that those around America who are listening to this will rise up and call their Members of Congress, call their Senators, call the White House and tell them that you don't play politics with our men and women in uniform. This is about national security and national defense. You need to sign that bill.

We are working through conference right now to hopefully get it done before we go into recess. This is an important piece of legislation, and we should not be playing political games with our national security.

So thank you, Madam Chairman, for organizing this. Thanks for the opportunity to come down and speak on behalf of our constituents, on behalf of those in my district right now that are serving overseas, the men and women in uniform. We owe it to them to make sure that we have a strong national security, that we have a strong military, we give them everything they need, and that we provide leadership in the world.

We have got to continue to provide oversight to the failed foreign policy and defense policy of this administration, and I look forward to continuing these discussions.

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. I thank the gentlewoman.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Republican Women's Policy Committee, I would like to end this Special Order today by thanking our troops and their families. These men and women voluntarily venture into harm's way to protect our freedoms, ideals, and way of life.

It is equally as important that we recognize the sacrifices that military spouses and children make as well. They deserve our unwavering support for putting the safety and security of our country first.

May God continue to bless this great Nation and our men and women in uniform.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time to conclude this Special Order on national security.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2898, WESTERN WATER AND AMERICAN FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3038, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015, PART II

Mr. NEWHOUSE (during the Special Order of Mrs. ELLMERS of North Caro-

lina), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-204) on the resolution (H. Res. 362) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2898) to provide drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3038) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON H.R. 3049, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. ADERHOLT (during the Special Order of Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina), from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-205) on the bill (H.R. 3049) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2722

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2722.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2722

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2722.

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

There was no objection.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, we are going to spend about an hour here talking about something that is of great importance to the American people, to the economy, to the strength of America, and, indeed, the discussion we just heard about national security. It