

# Union Calendar No. 593

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7073

[Report No. 118-699]

To improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2024

Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. OBERNOLTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Additional sponsor: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 22, 2024]

# **A BILL**

To improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Next Generation Pipe-*  
5 *lines Research and Development Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *DEPARTMENT.*—*The term “Department”*  
9 *means the Department of Energy.*

10 (2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—*The term “eligible enti-*  
11 *ty” means—*

12 (A) *an institution of higher education (as*  
13 *such term is defined in section 101(a) of the*  
14 *Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*  
15 *1001(a))), including historically Black colleges*  
16 *and universities (within the meaning of the term*  
17 *“part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher*  
18 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)), Tribal*  
19 *colleges and universities (as such term is defined*  
20 *in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of*  
21 *1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)), and minority serving*  
22 *institutions (including the entities described in*  
23 *any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section*  
24 *371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*  
25 *U.S.C. 1067q(a));*

1                   (B) a nonprofit research organization;

2                   (C) a National Laboratory (as such term is  
3 defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of  
4 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801));

5                   (D) a private commercial entity;

6                   (E) a partnership or consortium of two or  
7 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)  
8 through (D) that leverages existing Department  
9 efforts; or

10                  (F) any other entity the Secretary deter-  
11 mines appropriate.

12                  (3) *SECRETARY.*—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of Energy.

14                  (4) *TECHNICAL STANDARDS.*—The term “tech-  
15 nical standard” has the meaning given such term in  
16 section 12(d)(5) of the National Technology Transfer  
17 and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note).

18 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION.**

19 *In carrying out this Act—*

20                  (1) *the Secretary shall avoid unnecessary dupli-*  
21 *cation and achieve shared mission goals by coordi-*  
22 *nating with the Administrator of the Pipeline and*  
23 *Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the*  
24 *Department of Transportation and across all relevant*

1        *program offices at the Department of Energy, includ-*  
2        *ing—*

3                    *(A) the Office of Science;*

4                    *(B) the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon*  
5        *Management;*

6                    *(C) the Office of Energy Efficiency and Re-*  
7        *newable Energy;*

8                    *(D) the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Se-*  
9        *curity, and Emergency Response;*

10                   *(E) the Advanced Research Projects Agen-*  
11        *cy–Energy;*

12                   *(F) the Office of Clean Energy Demonstra-*  
13        *tions; and*

14                   *(G) any other cross-cutting program office*  
15        *determined appropriate;*

16                   *(2) the Secretary of Transportation shall ensure*  
17        *participation of and coordination with the Secretary*  
18        *of Energy of—*

19                   *(A) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials*  
20        *Safety Administration of the Department of*  
21        *Transportation; and*

22                   *(B) any other program office of the Depart-*  
23        *ment of Transportation determined appropriate;*

24        *and*

1           (3) *the Secretary shall coordinate with the Direc-*  
2           *tor of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-*  
3           *nology, the Secretary of the Interior, and the heads of*  
4           *other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate.*

5 **SEC. 4. ADVANCED PIPELINE MATERIALS AND TECH-**  
6                                   **NOLOGIES DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE.**

7           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subtitle E of title III of division*  
8           *D of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public*  
9           *Law 117–58) is amended by adding at the end the following*  
10          *new section:*

11 **“SEC. 40344. ADVANCED PIPELINE MATERIALS AND TECH-**  
12                                   **NOLOGIES DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE.**

13           “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF INITIATIVE.*—*The Secretary*  
14           *shall establish a demonstration initiative (in this section*  
15           *referred to as the ‘Initiative’)* *under which the Secretary,*  
16           *through a competitive merit review process, shall award fi-*  
17           *nancial assistance to eligible entities to carry out dem-*  
18           *onstration projects on low- to mid-technology readiness level*  
19           *subjects to achieve deployment of technologies that—*

20                           “(1) *are applicable to pipelines and associated*  
21           *infrastructure, including liquefied natural gas facili-*  
22           *ties and underground and above ground gas and liq-*  
23           *uid fuel storage facilities; and*

1           “(2) *involve the development of next generation*  
2           *pipeline systems, components, and related tech-*  
3           *nologies.*

4           “(b) *DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOCUS AREAS.—In*  
5           *carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary shall select dem-*  
6           *onstration projects that best advance research undertaken*  
7           *by the Department and the Department of Transportation*  
8           *and incorporate a range of technology focus areas, which*  
9           *may include the following:*

10           “(1) *Advanced leak detection and mitigation*  
11           *tools and technologies.*

12           “(2) *Novel materials, including alloy and non-*  
13           *metallic materials, to improve integrity for new and*  
14           *existing pipelines, such as pipeline coatings, sleeves,*  
15           *and liners, and corrosion resistant materials, includ-*  
16           *ing maximum and minimum flow rates and immu-*  
17           *nity to electrical discharge processes.*

18           “(3) *Technologies and methods for retrofitting*  
19           *existing pipelines, resolving material compatibility*  
20           *issues, and minimizing leakage, such as field protec-*  
21           *tive coatings and material treatment.*

22           “(4) *Advanced manufacturing approaches for*  
23           *producing, fitting, and coupling pipelines, including*  
24           *the fabrication of higher performance pipeline mate-*  
25           *rials and new extrusion technologies or methods to*

1        *join ultra-high strength and corrosion resistant mate-*  
2        *rials at a scale for distribution.*

3                *“(5) Advanced sensor technologies and processes*  
4        *that enable real-time or in situ monitoring of pipeline*  
5        *assets to assess and mitigate leaks, both internal and*  
6        *external to the pipeline, which may include the fol-*  
7        *lowing:*

8                        *“(A) Wireless sensors, such as surface acous-*  
9        *tic wave sensors.*

10                      *“(B) Advanced and cost-effective electro-*  
11        *chemical sensors.*

12                      *“(C) Distributed fiber optic sensors.*

13                      *“(D) Autonomous sensor systems, including*  
14        *uncrewed aircraft.*

15                      *“(E) Optical methods.*

16                      *“(F) Multi-use platforms for diverse sources.*

17                      *“(G) Hybrid data-analysis platforms.*

18                *“(6) Advanced computational, data analytics,*  
19        *and machine learning models to achieve the following:*

20                      *“(A) Multiscale modeling, characterization,*  
21        *and optimization of transmission and distribu-*  
22        *tion systems and components to aid in planning*  
23        *for optimized and resilient infrastructure.*

24                      *“(B) Correlation between sensor and emis-*  
25        *sions data at all operational points and across*



1           *a variety of scales to assure system integrity*  
2           *spanning large areas.*

3           “(C) *Accurate material lifecycle predictions*  
4           *and simulation platforms to forecast pipeline*  
5           *health.*

6           “(D) *Secure real time autonomous moni-*  
7           *toring and repair capabilities.*

8           “(E) *Mapping and monitoring of structural*  
9           *health parameters, such as corrosion.*

10          “(7) *Self-healing and self-repair functionalities,*  
11          *including by chemical treatment methods.*

12          “(8) *Autonomous robotic and patch technologies*  
13          *for inspection and repair.*

14          “(9) *Dynamic compressor technologies, including*  
15          *retrofit kits for existing compressor systems.*

16          “(10) *Strategies and technologies for integrated*  
17          *cybersecurity considerations and countering*  
18          *cyberattacks.*

19          “(11) *Technologies and methods to reduce poten-*  
20          *tial environmental impacts, including at the atmos-*  
21          *pheric and subsurface level, associated with pipelines,*  
22          *liquefied natural gas facilities, and gas and liquid*  
23          *fuel storage facilities, such as equipment failure.*

24          “(12) *Tools to evaluate geographical pipeline*  
25          *data for the feasibility of repurposing existing infra-*

1 *structure for safe and effective transport and use of*  
2 *alternative fuels, blends, and carbon dioxide.*

3 *“(13) Tools and technologies applicable to im-*  
4 *proving the safety, operation, and efficiency of lique-*  
5 *fied natural gas facilities and gas and liquid fuel*  
6 *storage facilities.*

7 *“(c) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting eligible*  
8 *entities for demonstration projects under the Initiative, the*  
9 *Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, take*  
10 *the following actions:*

11 *“(1) Encourage regional diversity among eligible*  
12 *entities, including participation by such entities lo-*  
13 *cated in rural States.*

14 *“(2) Prioritize technological diversity among eli-*  
15 *gible entities.*

16 *“(3) Prioritize a diverse mix of energy, sub-*  
17 *stances, fuel sources, and byproducts, including the*  
18 *following:*

19 *“(A) Gas and liquid hydrocarbons, includ-*  
20 *ing natural gas, renewable natural gas, methane,*  
21 *ethane, and liquefied natural gas.*

22 *“(B) Carbon dioxide.*

23 *“(C) Hydrogen.*

24 *“(D) Biofuels.*

25 *“(E) Water.*

1           “(F) *Substances in the hydrogen supply*  
2           *chain, including ammonia and liquid organic*  
3           *hydrogen carriers.*

4           “(G) *Blends of gases or liquids, including*  
5           *hydrogen blends.*

6           “(H) *Any other source the Secretary deter-*  
7           *mines appropriate.*

8           “(4) *Prioritize projects that leverage and are*  
9           *complementary to existing energy infrastructure.*

10          “(5) *Prioritize projects that leverage matching*  
11          *funds from non-Federal sources.*

12          “(6) *Ensure that selected projects are coordinated*  
13          *with or expand on the existing technology demonstra-*  
14          *tion programs of the Department.*

15          “(7) *Evaluate projects and topics for technical*  
16          *performance and economic feasibility as part of*  
17          *lifecycle assessments for return on investment impact.*

18          “(8) *Prioritize projects that can quantifiably re-*  
19          *duce the environmental impacts of pipelines and asso-*  
20          *ciated infrastructure on air, water, or soil quality in*  
21          *all regions of the United States, especially in under-*  
22          *served and rural communities.*

23          “(d) *LOCATION.—To the maximum extent practicable,*  
24          *demonstration projects under the Initiative shall be located*  
25          *on sites with existing research infrastructure or with the*

1 *ability to coordinate with existing Department user facili-*  
 2 *ties and research centers.*

3 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of*  
 4 *funds authorized to be appropriated for—*

5 “(1) *the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renew-*  
 6 *able Energy, and*

7 “(2) *the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon*  
 8 *Management,*

9 *pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (6), respectively, of section*  
 10 *10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Develop-*  
 11 *ment, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as divi-*  
 12 *sion B of Public Law 117–167), there is authorized to be*  
 13 *appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this*  
 14 *section \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$50,000,000*  
 15 *for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.*

16 “(f) *SUNSET.—This section shall terminate five years*  
 17 *after the date of the enactment of this section.”.*

18 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in*  
 19 *section 1(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*  
 20 *is amended by inserting after the item relating to section*  
 21 *40343 the following new item:*

“*Sec. 40344. Advanced pipeline materials and technologies demonstration initia-*  
*tive.”.*

22 **SEC. 5. JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appro-*  
 24 *priations, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary*

1 *of Transportation and the Director of the National Institute*  
2 *of Standards and Technology, and in coordination with the*  
3 *demonstration initiative established pursuant to section*  
4 *40344 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub-*  
5 *lic Law 117–58), as added by section 4, shall establish with-*  
6 *in the Department a joint research and development pro-*  
7 *gram (referred to in this Act as the “Joint Program”) to*  
8 *carry out research projects that—*

9           (1) *develop cost-effective advanced materials and*  
10 *technologies for pipeline transportation systems at*  
11 *different scales;*

12           (2) *enable the commercialization of innovative*  
13 *materials and technologies for pipeline transportation*  
14 *systems;*

15           (3) *support the development of technical stand-*  
16 *ards of innovative materials and technologies for*  
17 *pipeline transportation systems; and*

18           (4) *are at a low technology readiness level and*  
19 *not pursued by the Pipeline Safety Research Program*  
20 *of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Ad-*  
21 *ministration of the Department of Transportation.*

22           (b) *MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later*  
23 *than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,*  
24 *the Secretary shall enter into or update an existing memo-*  
25 *randum of understanding with the Secretary of Transpor-*

1 *tation and the Director of the National Institute of Stand-*  
2 *ards and Technology to administer the Joint Program.*  
3 *Such memorandum shall require each participating agency*  
4 *to—*

5           (1) *identify unique research capabilities to con-*  
6 *tribute while avoiding duplication of existing efforts;*  
7 *and*

8           (2) *include cost sharing and cost reimbursement*  
9 *abilities among participating agencies, including any*  
10 *training or resource outlays that will be required.*

11       (c) *INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out the Joint Pro-*  
12 *gram, the Secretary, the Secretary of Transportation, and*  
13 *the Director of the National Institute of Standards and*  
14 *Technology shall—*

15           (1) *use existing research infrastructure at—*

16                   (A) *Department of Energy facilities, includ-*  
17 *ing National Laboratories;*

18                   (B) *Department of Transportation initia-*  
19 *tives, including any such initiatives carried out*  
20 *through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials*  
21 *Safety Administration; and*

22                   (C) *the National Institute of Standards and*  
23 *Technology; and*

24           (2) *develop new infrastructure for potential*  
25 *projects, if appropriate.*

1           (d) *GOALS AND METRICS.*—*The Secretary, the Sec-*  
2 *retary of Transportation, and the Director of the National*  
3 *Institute of Standards and Technology shall develop goals*  
4 *and metrics for each agency in meeting technological*  
5 *progress under the Joint Program, consistent with existing*  
6 *United States energy safety, resilience, and security poli-*  
7 *cies.*

8           (e) *SELECTION OF PROJECTS.*—*To the maximum ex-*  
9 *tent practicable, the Secretary, the Secretary of Transpor-*  
10 *tation, and the Director of the National Institute of Stand-*  
11 *ards and Technology shall ensure the following with respect*  
12 *to the Joint Program:*

13                   (1) *Projects are carried out under conditions*  
14 *that represent a variety of geographies, physical con-*  
15 *ditions, and market constraints.*

16                   (2) *Projects represent an appropriate balance of*  
17 *the following:*

18                           (A) *Larger, higher-cost projects.*

19                           (B) *Smaller, lower-cost projects.*

20                   (3) *To the maximum extent practicable, projects*  
21 *are transferred between participating agencies based*  
22 *on the stage of research and capabilities of each agen-*  
23 *cy.*

24           (f) *PRIORITY.*—*In carrying out the Joint Program, the*  
25 *Secretary, the Director of the National Institute of Stand-*

1 *ards and Technology, and the Secretary of Transportation*  
2 *shall, through consultation with the demonstration initia-*  
3 *tive established pursuant to section 40344 of the Infrastruc-*  
4 *ture Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), as*  
5 *added by section 4, to identify and advance areas of re-*  
6 *search most needed for demonstration projects under such*  
7 *demonstration initiative, give priority to research and dem-*  
8 *onstration projects that—*

9           (1) *are likely to be of value to such demonstra-*  
10 *tion initiative; and*

11           (2) *are done in coordination with, or advance*  
12 *knowledge critical to, the National Pipeline Mod-*  
13 *ernization Center established pursuant to section 6.*

14           (g) *RELATION TO EXISTING LAW.—Nothing in this*  
15 *section may be construed to change existing agency roles,*  
16 *responsibilities, or areas of expertise as described in section*  
17 *12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Public*  
18 *Law 107–355; 49 U.S.C. 60101 note)*

19           (h) *SUNSET.—This section shall terminate five years*  
20 *after the date of the enactment of this section.*

21 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL PIPELINE MODERNIZATION CENTER.**

22           (a) *IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the demonstration*  
23 *initiative established pursuant to section 40344 of the In-*  
24 *frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58),*  
25 *as added by section 4, and the Joint Program and subject*



1 *to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall es-*  
2 *tablish a National Pipeline Modernization Center (referred*  
3 *to in this Act as the “Center”), which shall focus on collabo-*  
4 *rating with industry and stakeholders to coordinate and*  
5 *carry out research, development, and demonstration*  
6 *projects focused on commercializing cost-effective products*  
7 *and procedures aligned with the goals and priorities set*  
8 *forth by the Department.*

9       **(b) SELECTION.**—*The Secretary shall administer the*  
10 *Center in conjunction with an eligible entity pursuant to*  
11 *an agreement between the Department and such entity.*  
12 *Such entity shall be selected on a competitive, merit-re-*  
13 *viewed basis.*

14       **(c) EXISTING CENTERS.**—*In administering the Center,*  
15 *the Secretary shall prioritize higher education energy-re-*  
16 *lated research centers in existence as of the date of the enact-*  
17 *ment of this Act.*

18       **(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.**—*An agreement under*  
19 *subsection (b) shall be for a period of not more than five*  
20 *years, subject to the availability of appropriations.*

21       **(e) LOCATION.**—*The Center shall be located in prox-*  
22 *imity to critical transportation infrastructure connecting*  
23 *to an existing national pipeline transportation system and*  
24 *other Department monitoring assets, as determined by the*  
25 *Secretary.*

1           (f) *COORDINATION WITH TRAINING AND QUALIFICA-*  
2 *TIONS CENTER.*—*In carrying out the functions described in*  
3 *subsection (a), the Center shall coordinate and collaborate*  
4 *with training centers of the Pipeline and Hazardous Mate-*  
5 *rials Safety Administration of the Department of Transpor-*  
6 *tation to facilitate knowledge sharing among, and enhanced*  
7 *training opportunities for, Federal and State pipeline safe-*  
8 *ty inspectors and investigators.*

9           (g) *DUPLICATION.*—*The Secretary shall ensure the co-*  
10 *ordination of, and avoid unnecessary duplication of, the ac-*  
11 *tivities under this section with the National Center of Excel-*  
12 *lence for Liquefied Natural Gas Safety established pursuant*  
13 *to section 111 of the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipe-*  
14 *lines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (49 U.S.C. 60103*  
15 *note; Public Law 116–260, div. R, title I).*

16 **SEC. 7. NIST PIPELINE METROLOGY.**

17           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to the availability of appro-*  
18 *priations, the Director of the National Institute of Stand-*  
19 *ards and Technology shall carry out a program of measure-*  
20 *ment research, development, demonstration, and standard-*  
21 *ization to—*

- 22                   (1) *ensure the integrity of pipeline facilities; and*  
23                   (2) *support pipeline safety, security, efficiency,*  
24                   *sustainability, and resilience.*

1           **(b) TESTING.**—*The Director of the National Institute*  
2 *of Standards and Technology, in collaboration with the Sec-*  
3 *retary of the Department of Transportation and in con-*  
4 *sultation with the private sector and international stand-*  
5 *ards organizations, shall support testing, evaluation, and*  
6 *research infrastructure to support the activities described*  
7 *in subsection (a).*

8           **(c) ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—*From*  
9 *amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the*  
10 *National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Direc-*  
11 *tor of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*  
12 *shall allocate up to \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025*  
13 *through 2029 to carry out this section.*

14 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15           **(a) IN GENERAL.**—*Out of funds authorized to be ap-*  
16 *propriated for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renew-*  
17 *able Energy and the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon*  
18 *Management pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (6), respec-*  
19 *tively, of section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Re-*  
20 *search and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act*  
21 *(enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167), there is*  
22 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry*  
23 *out—*

1           (1) section 5, \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025,  
2           and \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through  
3           2029; and

4           (2) section 6, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025,  
5           and \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through  
6           2029.

7           (b) *OFFSET*.—Section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI  
8           of the Research and Development, Competition, and Inno-  
9           vation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167)  
10          is amended—

11           (1) in paragraph (1)—

12                   (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
13                   (A), by striking “2026” and inserting “2029”;  
14                   and

15                   (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
16                   “1,200,000,000” and inserting “\$1,100,000,000”;  
17                   and

18           (2) in subsection (6)—

19                   (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
20                   (A), by striking “2026” and inserting “2029”;

21                   (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
22                   “600,000,000” and inserting “\$445,000,000”;

23                   (C) in subparagraph (B)—

24                           (i) by striking “200,000,000” and in-  
25                           serting “\$100,000,000”; and

1                   (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-  
2                   colon;

3                   (D) in subparagraph (C)—

4                   (i) by striking “1,000,000,000” and in-  
5                   serting “\$900,000,000”; and

6                   (ii) by striking the period and insert-  
7                   ing “; and”; and

8                   (E) by adding at the end the following new  
9                   subparagraph:

10                   “(D) \$455,000,000 to carry out pipeline re-  
11                   search, development, demonstration, and com-  
12                   mercial application activities.”.

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed