

opportunity to ensure that our own overseas contracting does not indirectly support debt bondage, and that is what this legislation ensures. Our practices need to reflect our Nation's fundamental commitments to freedom and human dignity, and, most importantly as well, we need to set an example for the rest of the world. I think by passing this legislation we will do so.

I again want to thank my coauthor, Mr. ENGEL, and all of our bipartisan cosponsors for their support of this bill. It really deserves our unanimous support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 400, the Trafficking Prevention In Foreign Affairs Contracting Act.

I support this legislation because it enforces the implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

H.R. 400 requires the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to submit reports on definitions of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of enabling compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Indeed, the office of the Inspector General reported that a significant majority of the Department of State's foreign workers in certain Middle Eastern countries paid substantial fees to recruiters.

According to the Inspector General, "approximately one-half of the workers were charged recruitment fees equaling more than six months' salary."

Moreover, "more than a quarter of the workers reported fees greater than one year's salary and . . . fees that could not be paid off in two years."

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that USAID, the Department of State (DOS), and the Defense Department (DOD) should enhance and strengthen their oversight of contractors in order to better protect against trafficking in persons.

The agencies should develop more precise definitions of recruitment fees, and have stronger implementation strategies towards contracting officials in areas where the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

Indeed, out of the three agencies previously addressed, only the DOD committed to definitional recruitment fees and concurred with the United States GAO's definitional recommendation.

A proposed Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) rule that prohibits charging any recruitment fees to employees was noted by both the Department of State and USAID.

However, both the Department of State and USAID lacked an explicit definition for what constitutes a prohibited recruitment fee.

Without an explicit definition of the components of recruitment fees, the risk of debt bondages increase, prohibited fees are more likely to be renamed and passed, and other conditions that contribute to trafficking are more likely to occur.

I support this legislation because no later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, both the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes a proposed definition of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of com-

plying with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Both entities will also include a description of what fee components and amounts are prohibited or are permissible for contractors or their agents to charge workers.

An explanation of how the definition provided will be incorporated into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and contracting practices will be required.

Both the 180-day period preceding the date of submission and the one year following the date of submission require a report of the description of actions taken.

Indeed, acknowledging the actions executed during the time periods provided ensure that officials responsible for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and contracting practices include the prevention of trafficking in persons in plans and processes.

These include agreements and contracting practices that relate to areas of the world in which the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

In a 2011 CNN report, we learned about a federal agency filing a large human trafficking lawsuit.

The article discussed Thai workers who made their way to the nonprofit agency.

Some were approached by a labor contractor who offered what is said to be a lucrative job on a farm in the United States, but the would be workers unfortunately found themselves owing thousands of dollars in recruiting fees instead.

I support this legislation because it facilitates, establishes and monitors a strong system for submitting reports pertaining to explicit definitions of placement and recruitment fees, so foreign workers recruited from developing countries are not vulnerable to a variety of trafficking-related abuses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400, 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.

ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2152) to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2152

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 "Electrify Africa Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in Africa in order to unlock the potential for inclusive economic growth, job creation, food security, improved health, education, and environmental outcomes, and poverty reduction.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with the governments of sub-Saharan African countries, international financial institutions, and African regional economic communities, cooperatives, and the private sector, in a concerted effort to—

(1) promote first-time access to power and power services for at least 50,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas;

(2) encourage the installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts of electrical power in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 using a broad mix of energy options to help reduce poverty, promote sustainable development, and drive inclusive economic growth;

(3) promote non-discriminatory reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in urban areas (including small urban areas) to promote economic growth and job creation;

(4) promote policies to facilitate public-private partnerships to provide non-discriminatory reliable, sustainable, and affordable electrical service to rural and underserved populations;

(5) encourage the necessary in-country reforms, including facilitating public-private partnerships specifically to support electricity access projects to make such expansion of power access possible;

(6) promote reforms of power production, delivery, and pricing, as well as regulatory reforms and transparency, to support long-term, market-based power generation and distribution;

(7) promote policies to displace kerosene lighting with other technologies;

(8) promote an all-of-the-above energy development strategy for sub-Saharan Africa that includes the use of oil, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, wind, solar, and geothermal power, and other sources of energy; and

(9) promote and increase the use of private financing and seek ways to remove barriers to private financing and assistance for projects, including through charitable organizations.

SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIYEAR STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a comprehensive, integrated, multiyear strategy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to implement national power strategies and develop an appropriate mix of power solutions to provide access to sufficient reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in order to reduce poverty and drive economic growth and job creation consistent with the policy stated in section 3.

(2) FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS.—The President shall ensure that the strategy required under paragraph (1) maintains sufficient flexibility for and remains responsive to concerns and interests of affected local communities and technological innovation in the power sector.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that

contains the strategy required under subsection (a) and includes a discussion of the following elements:

(1) The objectives of the strategy and the criteria for determining the success of the strategy.

(2) A general description of efforts in sub-Saharan Africa to—

- (A) increase power production;
- (B) strengthen electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure;
- (C) provide for regulatory reform and transparent and accountable governance and oversight;
- (D) improve the reliability of power;
- (E) maintain the affordability of power;
- (F) maximize the financial sustainability of the power sector; and
- (G) improve non-discriminatory access to power that is done in consultation with affected communities.

(3) A description of plans to support efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to power in urban and rural areas, including a description of plans designed to address commercial, industrial, and residential needs.

(4) A description of plans to support efforts to reduce waste and corruption, ensure local community consultation, and improve existing power generation through the use of a broad power mix, including fossil fuel and renewable energy, distributed generation models, energy efficiency, and other technological innovations, as appropriate.

(5) An analysis of existing mechanisms for ensuring, and recommendations to promote—

- (A) commercial cost recovery;
- (B) commercialization of electric service through distribution service providers, including cooperatives, to consumers;
- (C) improvements in revenue cycle management, power pricing, and fees assessed for service contracts and connections;
- (D) reductions in technical losses and commercial losses; and
- (E) non-discriminatory access to power, including recommendations on the creation of new service provider models that mobilize community participation in the provision of power services.

(6) A description of the reforms being undertaken or planned by countries in sub-Saharan Africa to ensure the long-term economic viability of power projects and to increase access to power, including—

- (A) reforms designed to allow third parties to connect power generation to the grid;
- (B) policies to ensure there is a viable and independent utility regulator;
- (C) strategies to ensure utilities become or remain creditworthy;
- (D) regulations that permit the participation of independent power producers and private-public partnerships;
- (E) policies that encourage private sector and cooperative investment in power generation;

(F) policies that ensure compensation for power provided to the electrical grid by on-site producers;

(G) policies to unbundle power services;

(H) regulations to eliminate conflicts of interest in the utility sector;

(I) efforts to develop standardized power purchase agreements and other contracts to streamline project development;

(J) efforts to negotiate and monitor compliance with power purchase agreements and other contracts entered into with the private sector; and

(K) policies that promote local community consultation with respect to the development of power generation and transmission projects.

(7) A description of plans to ensure meaningful local consultation, as appropriate, in

the planning, long-term maintenance, and management of investments designed to increase access to power in sub-Saharan Africa.

(8) A description of the mechanisms to be established for—

(A) selection of partner countries for focused engagement on the power sector;

(B) monitoring and evaluating increased access to, and reliability and affordability of, power in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) maximizing the financial sustainability of power generation, transmission, and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa;

(D) establishing metrics to demonstrate progress on meeting goals relating to access to power, power generation, and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(E) terminating unsuccessful programs.

(9) A description of how the President intends to promote trade in electrical equipment with countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of how the government of each country receiving assistance pursuant to the strategy—

(A) plans to lower or eliminate import tariffs or other taxes for energy and other power production and distribution technologies destined for sub-Saharan Africa, including equipment used to provide energy access, including solar lanterns, solar home systems, and micro and mini grids; and

(B) plans to protect the intellectual property of companies designing and manufacturing products that can be used to provide energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(10) A description of how the President intends to encourage the growth of distributed renewable energy markets in sub-Saharan Africa, including off-grid lighting and power, that includes—

(A) an analysis of the state of distributed renewable energy in sub-Saharan Africa;

(B) a description of market barriers to the deployment of distributed renewable energy technologies both on- and off-grid in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) an analysis of the efficacy of efforts by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the United States Agency for International Development to facilitate the financing of the importation, distribution, sale, leasing, or marketing of distributed renewable energy technologies; and

(D) a description of how bolstering distributed renewable energy can enhance the overall effort to increase power access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(11) A description of plans to ensure that small and medium enterprises based in sub-Saharan Africa can fairly compete for energy development and energy access opportunities associated with this Act.

(12) A description of how United States investments to increase access to energy in sub-Saharan Africa may reduce the need for foreign aid and development assistance in the future.

(13) A description of policies or regulations, both domestically and internationally, that create barriers to private financing of the projects undertaken in this Act.

(14) A description of the specific national security benefits to the United States that will be derived from increased energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(c) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, as appropriate, establish an Interagency Working Group to coordinate the activities of relevant United States Government departments and agencies involved in carrying out the strategy required under this section.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Working Group may, among other things—

(A) seek to coordinate the activities of the United States Government departments and

agencies involved in implementing the strategy required under this section;

(B) ensure efficient and effective coordination between participating departments and agencies; and

(C) facilitate information sharing, and coordinate partnerships between the United States Government, the private sector, and other development partners to achieve the goals of the strategy.

SEC. 5. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE FOR POWER PROJECTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA BY KEY UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In pursuing the policy goals described in section 3, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the Trade and Development Agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation should, as appropriate, prioritize and expedite institutional efforts and assistance to facilitate the involvement of such institutions in power projects and markets, both on- and off-grid, in sub-Saharan Africa and partner with other investors and local institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, including private sector actors, to specifically increase access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in sub-Saharan Africa, including through—

(1) maximizing the number of people with new access to power and power services;

(2) improving and expanding the generation, transmission and distribution of power;

(3) providing reliable power to people and businesses in urban and rural communities;

(4) addressing the energy needs of marginalized people living in areas where there is little or no access to a power grid and developing plans to systematically increase coverage in rural areas;

(5) reducing transmission and distribution losses and improving end-use efficiency and demand-side management;

(6) reducing energy-related impediments to business productivity and investment; and

(7) building the capacity of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to monitor and appropriately and transparently regulate the power sector and encourage private investment in power production and distribution.

(b) EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT.—In prioritizing and expediting institutional efforts and assistance pursuant to this section, as appropriate, such institutions shall use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such guarantees and assistance in achieving the goals described in section 3.

(c) PROMOTION OF USE OF PRIVATE FINANCING AND ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out policies under this section, such institutions shall promote the use of private financing and assistance and seek ways to remove barriers to private financing for projects and programs under this Act, including through charitable organizations.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize modifying or limiting the portfolio of the institutions covered by subsection (a) in other developing regions.

SEC. 6. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

In implementing the strategy described in section 4, the President should direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to significantly increase efforts to promote investment in well-designed power sector and electrification projects in sub-Saharan Africa that increase energy access, in partnership with the private sector

and consistent with the host countries' absorptive capacity;

(2) address energy needs of individuals and communities where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(3) enhance coordination with the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to electricity;

(4) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities of sub-Saharan African governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially viable projects; and

(5) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

SEC. 7. PROGRESS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on progress made toward achieving the strategy described in section 4 that includes the following:

(1) A report on United States programs supporting implementation of policy and legislative changes leading to increased power generation and access in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of the number, type, and status of policy, regulatory, and legislative changes initiated or implemented as a result of programs funded or supported by the United States in countries in sub-Saharan Africa to support increased power generation and access after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) A description of power projects receiving United States Government support and how such projects, including off-grid efforts, are intended to achieve the strategy described in section 4.

(3) For each project described in paragraph (2)—

(A) a description of how the project fits into, or encourages modifications of, the national energy plan of the country in which the project will be carried out, including encouraging regulatory reform in that country;

(B) an estimate of the total cost of the project to the consumer, the country in which the project will be carried out, and other investors;

(C) the amount of financing provided or guaranteed by the United States Government for the project;

(D) an estimate of United States Government resources for the project, itemized by funding source, including from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of the Treasury, and other appropriate United States Government departments and agencies;

(E) an estimate of the number and regional locations of individuals, communities, businesses, schools, and health facilities that have gained power connections as a result of the project, with a description of how the reliability, affordability, and sustainability of power has been improved as of the date of the report;

(F) an assessment of the increase in the number of people and businesses with access to power, and in the operating electrical power capacity in megawatts as a result of the project between the date of the enactment of this Act and the date of the report;

(G) a description of efforts to gain meaningful local consultation for projects associated with this Act and any significant estimated noneconomic effects of the efforts carried out pursuant to this Act; and

(H) a description of the participation by small and medium enterprises based in sub-Saharan Africa on projects associated with this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. 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 bill.

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, I want to start by thanking this bill's Senate cosponsors. The Senate sponsors of the original measure are BOB CORKER, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and the ranking member, Mr. CARDIN, as well as two other Senators, MARCO RUBIO and CHRIS COONS. I thank them for their good work to ensure this bill's Senate passage. We had our House version passed into the Senate.

I also want to thank Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, as well as Chairman CHRIS SMITH, and Ranking Member KAREN BASS of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee for working so closely with me to develop the concept for this legislation over the last several years.

Last Congress, the House passed a similar version of the measure we consider today. With today's action, this bill will head to the President's desk for signature.

The Electrify Africa Act seeks to address the massive electricity shortage in Africa. It is a direct response to the fact that today 600 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa—that is 70 percent of the population—do not have access to reliable electricity. The Electrify Africa Act offers a market-based response to this problem, and it will bring about the development of affordable, reliable energy in Africa.

Why do we want to help increase energy access to the continent? Well, to create jobs and to improve lives in both Africa and America. It is no secret that Africa has great potential as a trading partner and could help create jobs here in the U.S.

As the Foreign Affairs Committee investigated how to make better use of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which was landmark legislation passed over a decade ago to expand trade with Africa, we learned that the lack of affordable, reliable energy made the production of goods for trade and export nearly impossible. Even where other conditions supported manufacturing, the cost of running a plant on a diesel generator is prohibited.

However, the U.S. is not alone in its interest in enhancing trade with Africa. We have competition. Just last

month, the People's Republic of China pledged \$60 billion in financial support to the continent. If the United States wants to tap into this potential consumer base, we need to be aggressively building partnerships on the continent, which is what this bill does.

This bill will also have a tangible impact on people's lives. As former chairman of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand how our considerable investments in improving access to health care and education in Africa are undermined by a lack of reliable electricity.

Mr. ENGEL and I visited a power provider in rural Tanzania, which would help meet the goals of this bill, in a place where only 10 percent of the population has access to electricity. In areas like that throughout Africa, schoolchildren are forced to study by inefficient, dangerous kerosene lamps. Cold storage of lifesaving vaccines is almost impossible without reliable electricity. Too many families resort to using charcoal or other toxic fuel sources whose fumes cause more deaths than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined and also damage the eyesight of the children trying to study.

In Tanzania, we now have American entrepreneurs bringing new technology and management expertise to the remotest areas of Africa, and that is improving lives. Many of us on the committee have worked to transform our foreign assistance from programs that offer extensive Band-Aids to policies that support economic growth and independence. The Electrify Africa Act is part of this transition.

This bill mandates a clear and comprehensive U.S. policy providing the private sector with the platform that it needs to invest in African electricity.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, Subcommittee Chairman SMITH, and Ranking Member BASS. I also want to thank our Senate colleagues, especially Chairman CORKER and Ranking Member CARDIN, for advancing this effort. We are now in a place to send this legislation to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, across sub-Saharan Africa, more than 600 million individuals live without access to reliable electricity. That is double the U.S. population without electricity, nearly two-thirds of their population.

For individuals, that deficit means never knowing what will happen with the flip of a switch. It means a day's work needs to come to an end at sunset, that food can't be refrigerated, and that technology that is so valuable for connecting to the rest of the world can't be relied upon.

For communities, lack of access to power undermines the ability of hospitals to deliver health care because

vaccines spoil and medical equipment sits useless. Businesses can't expand and thrive. Schools are limited in what they can offer students.

For countries, these factors combine to undermine stability and stymie progress. Without reliable power, countries can't become strong players in the global economy or strong partners on the global stage. The better these countries do, the better it is for their neighbors, for their region, and for the entire world.

As you can see, the United States has an interest in helping these countries grapple with this challenge and making sure the lights stay on. That is why the Electrify Africa Act is such an important bill.

This legislation puts into law President Obama's 2013 Power Africa initiative. It seeks to create strong, new partnerships among governments, banks, and other private sector investors with the aim of providing first-time power to 50 million people by the year 2020. It calls for a long-term strategy from our own government for assisting sub-Saharan African countries with national power strategies, and it directs other American agencies to make assistance for power projects in sub-Saharan Africa a top priority. It helps bring American influence to bear around the world to encourage international bodies to bring a new focus on this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

I want to congratulate Chairman ROYCE on the Electrify Africa Act as a companion bill to the legislation that we have before us today. We held a hearing in my subcommittee that KAREN BASS will remember well in November of 2014. The blessings that will accrue from a huge effort to electrify Africa are almost without limit, especially when it comes to health care and ensuring that students can have proper light to go to school and to study, particularly at night. All of the benefits that we take for granted in the United States and in other parts of the world still have yet to come to Africa.

In the 21st century, energy has become vital, as we all know, to modern societies. We no longer have to shop for food each day. Refrigerators keep food cold and preserved longer, whether in our homes, in restaurants, or during the process of transportation. Cell phones, computers, televisions, and other electronics require electrical power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the modern world and increasingly in the developing world.

As we have seen in the recent Ebola epidemic and in the current Zika virus epidemic, it is vital that medicines and plasma be kept cold so that they don't lose their potency. Of course, in the preservation of blood and so many other items that are essential to life, electricity facilitates their continuance and their potency.

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It is unfortunate that the continent of Africa has so many people who have been denied the ability to enjoy the advances of science. Currently, only 290 million people out of about 914 million Africans have access to electricity and the total number lacking continues to rise.

Bioenergy, mainly fuel, wood, and charcoal, is still the major source of fuel, and as the chairman pointed out in his opening comments, it threatens the lives of so many people in Africa, including the eyesight of many of those who experience that.

On the other hand, hydropower accounts for about 20 percent of the total power supply in the region, but less than 10 percent of its estimated potential has been realized. Persistent drought in some areas makes hydropower unpredictable.

The Electrify Africa Act takes an all-of-the-above approach—all of these good prospects—in promoting the widest selection of sources of energy that includes all forms of fossil fuels, but also hydroelectric and renewable energy sources.

This facilitates African nations to use all available energy sources. Coal, which is abundant in Africa, will be in the mix, and, hopefully, we can help them import clean coal technology to mitigate pollution.

Again, I thank the chairman for this legislation.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and who is a leader on sub-Saharan Africa issues.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2152, the Electrify Africa Act.

I commend the leadership and the work especially of our chair, Mr. ROYCE, of our ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, of our subcommittee chair, Mr. SMITH, and also of our committed members and staffs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as well as of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on this critical bill.

Because of this bill, the lives of millions of people can be changed immeasurably for the better.

I remind my colleagues that two-thirds of the population of sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity, particularly in the rural areas. This means that children are forced to study by candlelight and that doctors and midwives are delivering babies by relying on flashlights.

The effort to devise an inexpensive, safe, and reliable source of power is being addressed not only in the small, brilliant initiatives by young African entrepreneurs, such as by those whom I met when I had the honor of traveling with President Obama to the 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi, but also in the large, innovative public-private partnerships, such as Power Africa.

Electrify Africa can contribute to this effort in a major way by helping to address the glaring absence of electrical power for at least 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020, thus improving the education, health care, and other basic needs of millions of Africans.

The lack of access to power adversely affects broad-based economic development on the continent. This was particularly evident last year during the Ebola crisis in three small African countries.

That battle was won with the help of the U.S. and with well-coordinated regional efforts on the ground. Yet, in order to win the war against other crippling diseases, there must be greater access to electrical power.

In working together, we have crafted legislation that will focus on increasing access to electricity in rural and poor communities through small, renewable energy projects that will result in at least millions of Africans having access to electricity for the first time in their lives by 2020.

When we worked together last year to pass AGOA, we knew much more was needed in order to build the infrastructure that supported African nations in their ability to develop the capacity to become full trading partners with the United States.

This legislation, along with AGOA, is consistent with the theme from the continent—trade, not aid—moving toward the continent of Africa's being self-sufficient and self-determined.

I am proud to serve as an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I invite fellow Members to support this bill as well.

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and the subcommittee chairman and ranking member.

Sometimes the right thing to do is also in our strategic interests as a country, and this piece of legislation is a great example of that. I urge this body to pass it.

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

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

I again thank all of this bill's cosponsors in the House and in the Senate as well as the House and Senate staffs, particularly Nilmini Rubin.

I also thank Andy Olson, whose hard work has gotten us here today.

I also acknowledge Andrew Herscowitz—the USAID Power Africa’s coordinator—and his team, who are watching this debate right now in the gallery.

I think, as we look at the range of enthusiasm for this legislation, at the last count I took, we had letters of support from 35 African ambassadors, from the Chamber of Commerce, from the Corporate Council on Africa, from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and, of course, from the ONE Campaign.

The United States has economic and national security interests in the continued development of the African continent. This bill sets out a comprehensive, sustainable, and market-based plan to bring 600 million Africans out of the dark and into the global economy, benefiting American businesses and workers at the same time and, frankly, saving lives at the same time.

So I urge all Members to support the Electrify Africa Act.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of S. 2152 an important legisla-

I support S. 2152 because it seeks to establish a comprehensive United States policy that encourages the efforts of countries in Africa to develop an appropriate mix of electricity solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

According to the World Bank, those living on \$1.25 day in Africa accounted for 48.5% of the population in that region in 2010.

Moreover, the U.S. Energy Information Administration statistics state that in 2011 the whole of Africa possessed only 78 gigawatts of installed generation capacity, of which South Africa accounted for 44 gigawatts.

By comparison, installed capacity in the United States alone was 1,053 gigawatts.

In other words, all of Africa has only 7% of the electric capacity of the United States.

This is why S. 2152 is important, as it can be instrumental in helping to facilitate higher energy capacities in Africa.

Furthermore, actual production capacity for Africa is likely to be substantially lower than the theoretical quantity because of inadequate maintenance, outmoded equipment and fuel shortages.

Using per-capita data, a US citizen on average uses 12,461 kilowatt hours of electricity per annum; a citizen of Ethiopia uses 52.

On average, only 30% of Africa’s citizens have any access to electric electricity, and even where electricity is available, provision can be sporadic, with frequent electricity cuts and “brown-outs.”

For now, the continent remains largely dependent on hydroelectricity with 13 countries utilizing hydroelectricity for 60% or more of their energy.

But, hydroelectricity relies on rain and Africa’s rain fall is sporadic at best.

The reliance on sporadic rainfall adversely impacts the effectiveness and accessibility to hydroelectricity sources.

Energy is a key life blood of every economy and community.

In addition to electricity in homes, the energy sector has been instrumental in creating millions of jobs, providing lighting to communities and healthcare centers, fueling our vehicles, increasing literacy and life expectancy.

As an advocate for energy empowerment in Africa, I have championed energy brain trusts that are convened to serve as a platform for all relevant stakeholders from the energy sectors including coal, electric, natural gas, nuclear, oil and emerging energy sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectricity and turbine energy.

I support the Electrify Africa Act as it will address the energy issues of the day.

As you all may know, with enthusiasm, optimism and a collaborative spirit I partnered with my colleagues here in Congress and experts in other U.S. agencies such as USAID, which has been spearheading innovative energy initiatives through its inter-agency efforts.

This legislation is important because it will increase the number of people with new access to electricity and electricity services.

This legislation will improve and expand the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.

I support this legislation because it provides reliable electricity to people and businesses in urban and rural communities.

It will address the energy needs of citizens living in areas where there is little or no access to electricity grids.

It is also important because it will help develop plans to systemically increase coverage in rural areas.

It will facilitate the reduction in transmission and distribution losses and improve end-use efficiency and demand-side management as well as end energy-related impediments to business productivity and investment.

Additionally, this legislation will facilitate the capacity of countries in Africa to monitor appropriately and transparently the regulation of the power sector.

It will also serve as an economic stimulator because it will encourage private investment in energy production and distribution.

Overall, this legislation is important because it makes accessible a human necessity: electricity, which will dramatically improve the quality of life of children, women and men.

Access to electricity will aid the mid-wife in successfully delivering a healthy child, while insuring the mother’s successful recovery.

Access to electricity, taken for granted in some parts of the world is critical in Africa because it will provide the light for a child to do his or her homework.

Electricity gives Africa’s future innovator, politician and teacher access to the internet: opening countless doors.

I support this legislation because it will promote first-time access to electricity and electricity services for at least 50,000,000 people in Africa.

This legislation will facilitate the installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts of electricity in Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas.

When Africa succeeds the world succeeds and this is why I support this legislation and I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support across both chambers of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2152.

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.

AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-95)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Hungary, titled, “Agreement on Social Security between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Hungary,” and a related agreement titled, “Administrative Arrangement for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Government of Hungary” (collectively the “Agreements”). The Agreements were signed in Budapest, Hungary, on February 3, 2015.

The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and the provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend the Agreements and related documents.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 1, 2016.