

I remain disappointed, as so many do, of the fact that this Congress, this administration has not prioritized highly enough forest management.

Mr. Speaker, here is what I know from the Black Hills of South Dakota: A managed forest is a healthy forest. And I want to say that one more time because there will be no truer statement spoken on the House floor on this day: A managed forest is a healthy forest.

Today, millions of acres in this country are at risk of severe wildfire with potentially catastrophic impacts to our communities. Six of the worst fire seasons on record have occurred just over a period in the last few years.

Our agencies, Federal partners, communities, and our States need more tools to proactively manage and mitigate this threat. Again, a managed forest is a healthy forest.

And so, yes, by all means, let's celebrate this bill. It is an important technical fix that will improve in a narrow way the funding needs of the Forest Service. But let us keep in mind, to an even greater extent, in the days that follow that the resiliency of our forests remains a critically important national priority, and one that deserves greater attention from this body.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. I encourage the Members to vote "aye," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for the time he has put into this bill. The people of this country are very grateful, and we hope they realize how we here in Congress are really responding to the challenges facing our forestry, particularly with these wildfires.

A while back I recognized some of my staff, but we have had an addition that I would like to recognize because he really worked feverishly on this bill all the way up until this morning, I understand, and that is Mr. Paul Babbitt. I would ask Paul to stand. Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his work.

So much has already been said about this, but I am so proud of the efforts of our full House committee because once we really began to get into the ravages of these wildfires out West about a year back, we made a commitment that we were going to make sure that we did everything we can to save and prosper our great forestry industry, and we have done it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this great bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4489, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5608) to support research and state management efforts on chronic wasting disease.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5608

*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 "Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act".

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Chronic wasting disease, the fatal neurological disease found in cervids, is a fundamental threat to the health and vibrancy of deer, elk, and moose populations, and the increased occurrence of chronic wasting disease in regionally diverse locations necessitates an escalation in research, surveillance, monitoring, and management activities focused on containing and managing chronic wasting disease.

(2) A focus on research into the transmission of, resistance to, diagnosis of, and epidemiology of chronic wasting disease is needed to inform future policies to combat the disease and ensure the health of cervid populations.

(3) Because States and Tribes have diverse policies for addressing chronic wasting disease, the Federal Government, in consultation with the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force established by section 104 of America's Conservation Enhancement Act (Public Law 116-188), should coordinate financial and technical support to States and Tribes, State and Tribal departments of agriculture, State and Tribal wildlife agencies, institutions of higher education, and research centers conducting scientific research on chronic wasting disease.

(4) Pursuant to State and Federal law, the States retain primacy and policymaking authority with regard to wildlife management.

(5) Under current policies, chronic wasting disease remains a systemic threat to cervids.

(6) Scientific advances that lead to the ability to stop transmission of chronic wasting disease are needed to ensure the long-term viability of cervids.

##### SEC. 3. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program under which the Secretary shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements or other legal instruments, as authorized under 10413 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8312), with eligible entities to conduct research on the transmission of, resistance to, and diagnosis of chronic wasting disease.

(2) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—In entering into cooperative agreements or other legal instruments pursuant to paragraph (1), the

Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that shall conduct research relating to—

(A)(i) methods and products to effectively detect infectious chronic wasting disease prions in live cervids, cervid excreta, the environment, and inorganic surfaces, and to decontaminate such infectious prions; or

(ii) testing methods that significantly improve sensitivity and accelerate timelines for test results on non-live cervids;

(B) the long-term suppression or eradication of chronic wasting disease; or

(C) determination markers for genetic resistance to chronic wasting disease and strategies for using genetic resistance to combat the spread of the disease;

(D) sustainable cervid harvest management practices to reduce chronic wasting disease occurrence and to prevent or limit spatial spread of chronic wasting disease; or

(E) factors contributing to local emergence of chronic wasting disease, increased prevalence of chronic wasting disease, and distribution of chronic wasting disease, including mechanisms of disease transmission and effective barriers to transmission.

(3) SIZE OF AWARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, individual cooperative agreements or other legal instruments entered into under paragraph (1) shall be not less than two percent and not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this section.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS BY ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Of the amount of a cooperative agreement or other legal instrument entered into with an eligible entity under paragraph (1), the eligible entity may use not more than 10 percent of such amounts for administrative costs incurred by the eligible entity in carrying out the research described in such paragraph.

(b) SUPPORT FOR STATE EFFORTS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements or other legal instruments, as authorized under section 10413 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8312), with State or Tribal wildlife agencies and departments of agriculture to provide direct financial assistance to support the efforts of such State or Tribal wildlife agencies and departments of agriculture to develop and implement management strategies to address chronic wasting disease within their respective jurisdiction.

(2) APPLICATION.—A State or Tribal wildlife agency or department of agriculture seeking direct financial assistance under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time and manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(3) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In allocating funds made available to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year among State and Tribal wildlife agencies or departments of agriculture that submit an application for direct financial assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to States and Indian tribes that have—

(A) within their respective jurisdictions, the highest incidence of chronic wasting disease;

(B) shown the greatest financial commitment to managing, monitoring, surveying, and researching chronic wasting disease;

(C) comprehensive policies and programs focused on chronic wasting disease management that have integrated the programs and policies of all involved agencies related to chronic wasting disease management;

(D) the greatest risk of an initial occurrence of chronic wasting disease originating from surrounding areas; or

(E) the greatest need for response to new outbreaks of chronic wasting disease occurring in—

(i) areas in which chronic wasting disease is already found; or

(ii) areas with first infections, with the intent of containing chronic wasting disease in any new area of infection.

(4) **RAPID RESPONSE.**—If a State or Indian tribe detects chronic wasting disease in a cervid population within its jurisdiction that was not previously infected, the Secretary may, notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), immediately issue funds made available under subsection (e), in an amount to be determined by the Secretary, to support State and Tribal efforts to immediately control the spread of chronic wasting disease within that population.

(5) **PUBLIC EDUCATION ON CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**—The Secretary, in consultation with State and Tribal departments of agriculture and wildlife agencies, organizations representing the farmed cervid industry, and organizations representing deer hunters, shall develop and maintain materials based on the latest scientific knowledge to be used to educate the public on chronic wasting disease and techniques to help prevent the spread of the disease.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**—The term “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

(A) is a transmissible disease of the nervous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain; and

(B) belongs to the group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which includes scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a State or Tribal department of agriculture;

(B) a State or Tribal wildlife agency;

(C) a Tribal research facility;

(D) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

(E) a research center conducting or qualified to conduct scientific research on chronic wasting disease.

(d) **REVIEW OF HERD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM STANDARDS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting public feedback on potential updates and improvements to the chronic wasting disease herd certification program standards with special consideration given to—

(1) minimizing or eliminating the interaction of captive and wild deer;

(2) reviewing and updating indemnity practices, including the use of live testing, to ensure the timely and targeted removal of chronic wasting disease positive deer from the landscape; and

(3) increasing participation in the herd certification program.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$70,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through fiscal year 2028, to remain available until expended.

(2) **ALLOCATION AMONG PROGRAMS.**—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall allocate the funds made available under paragraph (1) evenly between the research program under subsection (a) and the management program under subsection (b).

(3) **SET-ASIDE FOR WILDLIFE AGENCIES.**—The Secretary shall ensure that, of the funds made available and allocated to carry out

subsection (b), not less than 75 percent of such funds are made available to State or Tribal wildlife agencies.

(f) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Of the funds made available under subsection (e) for a fiscal year to carry out this section, the Secretary may use not more than 10 percent of such funds for administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section.

(g) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as interfering with, or otherwise affecting, the authority of the Federal Government or States to manage wildlife and livestock on land within their respective jurisdictions, including managing, surveying, and monitoring the incidence of chronic wasting disease.

#### SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 10403(8) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8302(8)) is amended by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. **DAVID SCOTT**) and the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. **JOHN-SON**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **DAVID SCOTT** of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1300

Mr. **DAVID SCOTT** of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5608. Chronic wasting disease is a devastating illness and has had significant impacts on deer and other cervid populations around our great Nation. And improving management of chronic wasting disease is vital to containing the disease and preventing further spread of the disease.

Currently, there is no cure for the disease, and passage of this bill will also provide important research funding so that scientists can better understand the disease and their transmission.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a real special honor to recognize and say a word about the great sponsor of this bill—two great sponsors, I might add—Mr. **RON KIND**, and Ranking Member **G.T. THOMPSON**, for their longtime dedication on this important issue. Both of these gentlemen have been working on this bill feverishly for quite some time.

Mr. Speaker, it is also special because of Mr. **RON KIND**, one of our stalwart leaders and tremendous contributors to the Congress and this Nation, and most certainly to his great State of Wisconsin. But we all have heard the news that our good friend, Mr. **KIND**, this will be his last year here with us, and he has dedicated so much of his time to this specific bill. He is a good

man and a good friend, and he is also a good friend of my own brother-in-law, Hank Aaron. And he, in Wisconsin, who represents Eau Claire, played a very big role in getting that statue up there for my brother-in-law, Hank Aaron. He sent me a message when the Braves won the World Series. He said: **DAVID**, Hank is up in heaven smiling now.

I say to my friend: We are going to miss you. Great work here.

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

Mr. **JOHNSON** of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the body will forgive me a digression before we talk about chronic wasting disease, which is, as the chairman says, critically important. I do also want to talk about Mr. **KIND**.

So many Americans believe that every Member of Congress is a kind of villain with scales and fangs and horns, and that they are all just despicable people, or at the very least somebody who belongs to the opposite tribe is a despicable person. I just don't know anybody in Congress who believes that is true of **RON KIND**.

I will recount a story about a dinner where I had my two oldest boys with me. One of them was seated next to Mr. **KIND**. My son stole Mr. **KIND**'s dessert, and rather than erupt in anger or an accusatory finger wag, he handled it with great grace and friendship. My boys remind me still of that evening spent with Mr. **KIND**.

Mr. Speaker, as he seeks, certainly, a less stressful and perhaps a better and more rewarding future, let us remark on the type of impact that a decent person can still have in these Halls, and this bill before us today is ample evidence of that.

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

Mr. **DAVID SCOTT** of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. **KIND**), who is the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. **KIND**. Mr. Speaker, as the original sponsor of H.R. 5608, the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act, I rise in strong support of this legislation, which did pass unanimously out of the Agriculture Committee. I do thank and commend my good friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. **THOMPSON**) for being one of the original sponsors of this legislation with me; of course, my dear friend, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. **SCOTT**, for his support and leadership.

Throughout the years, I have been involved in a lot of debates and discussions on the House floor. I don't think I have ever been brought to blushing, and I thank the chairman for his kind introductory remarks and, of course, I thank my dear friend from South Dakota (Mr. **JOHNSON**) for those remarks.

Mr. Speaker, but to the task at hand, this legislation does authorize \$70 million for research and management of

CWD, or chronic wasting disease, through USDA grants. Chronic wasting disease is a contagious neurological disease affecting cervid animals—deer, elk, moose—and it is 100 percent fatal. And it is caused by misfolded proteins, or prions, as they are known, that ravages the animal's brain.

The legislation also authorizes USDA and State and Tribal agencies to develop educational materials to inform the public on CWD and directs USDA to review its certification program within 18 months.

CWD has been reported in over 25 States and is spreading. It not only is devastating to these animals and their herds but also to the outdoor recreation economy; namely, hunting, that depends on these animals.

Fortunately, the CDC has not found any jump from these animals to humans, and that is one of the reasons why we need further research to ensure that that does not happen. CWD presents one of the greatest threats to deer and other wild cervids in the United States and it has no known cure.

We have been battling this disease in Wisconsin for many years out of concern for the wildlife population and the adverse economic impact that it has, which is substantial. Hunters in Wisconsin have about \$2.5 billion yearly economic impact, supports directly or indirectly over 35,000 jobs, and generates billions in salaries and wages.

Last year, 131 out-of-State hunters came into the State of Wisconsin just to participate in the 9-day deer gun hunt season, which always takes place during the week of Thanksgiving. They spent about \$3.4 million. Nationwide, according to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, hunting in America is big business, generating more than \$67 billion in economic output and over 1 million jobs.

Now, we can stand here and throw more facts and figures about the economic toll the CWD is having, but as a kid who grew up loving to hunt in Wisconsin with my dad and my brothers—deer hunting, turkey hunting, duck hunting on the Mississippi, now we do most of our deer and turkey hunting on the family farm, a little bit north of La Crosse. It is much more than just economics and jobs and the amount being spent by hunters and the amount of revenue that we raise through the Robinson-Patman Act, which is collected and then reinvested in vital conservation programs throughout the country. It is part of our DNA, our heritage, our culture.

One of the most alluring aspects of the 9-day deer gun hunt season isn't the actual hunt itself, it is deer camp. It is being able to spend some time with your family, brothers, families, cousin, play some poker, razz each other for the weekend. And then that next morning, opening morning, you have over 800,000 hunters flooding the fields and forests of Wisconsin. Sometimes it feels like the third day of the

Battle of Gettysburg, the number of shots going off. I perhaps overstate that, but it is a real communal activity that brings people together and still one of the bonding elements, I think, that transcends the politics and the tribal nature of politics today. So it is important in that regard as well.

We have tried some self-help measures in Wisconsin to try to battle the spread of CWD, from free, clear firing zones, increase prohibition on baiting and feeding deer, to an earn a buck program, where you have to shoot a doe first before you can shoot a buck. All these are wildly unpopular with hunters because they are meant to try to reduce the deer herds and prevent the congregation and the spread of the disease from animal to animal.

That is why, again, I think this research is important. And there has been some good research taking place on prion disease generally in CWD, places like UW-Wisconsin and Washington and other areas. This legislation will enable that type of open-source research and collaboration to take place with increased vigor and focus, which again is long overdue before it spreads even further into more States adversely affecting the wildlife herds and the economy of those States.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is necessary to expand the basic and applied research that we see taking place that can be further enhanced, and also to better detect the spread of this disease, find out better management and containment strategies, and ultimately lead to a cure of the disease.

I do thank the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Jeff Crane, and his team over there, for his support and help with this legislation. They have been terrific to work with, as a former chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus here in Congress.

I thank Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the National Wildlife Federation, the Boone & Crockett National Deer Association, North American Deer Farmers Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Wildlife Management Institute, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers—many people, many groups, many members that have a vested interest in making sure we do this research right.

Mr. Speaker, I think the legislation is self-evident of the need. I encourage my colleagues to support it. And I conclude by thanking Olivia Kirchberg on my office staff who has been instrumental in helping us get the bipartisan, unanimous support for this legislation that it has enjoyed, and we look forward to working with the Senate for its passage there.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he would consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), one of this body's leading voices in policing, in mining, in infrastructure.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, Congressman KIND talked about the deer

camp and the stories. I remember the very first time at 16 years old when my father brought me up to the hunting shack with my uncles. It is a special time for those of us who recreate and deer hunt. I am proud to cosponsor this legislation with him, and I thank him and others for their work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation I proudly cosponsored, the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act. CWD threatens Minnesota's legendary whitetail deer herd and, therefore, our hunting way of life up North.

Whitetail season is an annual tradition for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans. Every year, we meet at our respective deer camps, reconnecting with family and old friends. We retell stories from previous years, and maybe embellishing a little bit, as we pass on the traditions and culture to our children.

However, deer harvests were down 8 percent throughout Minnesota this last year due to a myriad of issues. And if deer harvests keep trending downwards, it means fewer stories to share at camp around the fire, fewer deer for new hunters and kids to see and experience. Therefore, our hunting traditions trending down directly correlated with those harvest numbers. And in Minnesota, this trend will only be exacerbated by further spread of CWD.

In my district we have CWD hotspots cropping up seemingly every other week. Whether it be in Brainerd, the Bemidji area, or in other corners of the State, these troublesome reports are evidence of CWD creeping across our hunting lands. And that is why this legislation is so important right now. This CWD Research and Management Act authorizes needed funding for State agencies doing crucial on-the-ground work, like our DNR.

Funding from this bill will help drive the research and testing needed to wrap our arms around the problem by letting the experts get in the field and the laboratory. It will also empower our State fish and game industries to partner with grassroots organizations that can reach and educate hunters across the State.

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association has a statewide reach with a finger on the pulse of their membership. Helping the DNR help them is a true partnership that is necessary to combat the spread of CWD.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge passage of this legislation in both the House and the Senate, and I look forward to it becoming law.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1315

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

Mr. Speaker, I thought Mr. KIND, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. SCOTT said it all very well. This is important because chronic

wasting disease can wreak such havoc upon our herds.

I want to start by thanking Chairman SCOTT for facilitating the timely consideration of this bill, and not just this bill, sir, but also livestock mandatory reporting, the cattle contract library, and Ms. SCHRIER's forestry bill.

These came together, sir, and I want to thank you for that. I want to recognize Mr. KIND, as well as Mr. THOMPSON, for the work that they put into this important bipartisan solution.

I also want to express my appreciation for the coalition that Mr. KIND mentioned, such a broad coalition of stakeholders from the farmed and wild deer stakeholder groups and the sportsmen community at large. They provided a tremendous amount of insight so we could get this legislation right, and they were relentless in working with all of us to find common ground to craft this legislation and make sure that it was able to pass out of committee unanimously, and, hopefully, we can get a similar vote off the House floor.

As it has been said, but as it bears repeating, chronic wasting disease is a contagious, neurological disease that affects deer and elk and moose. It is always fatal. Unfortunately, it is not a highly localized disease particular to a particular State or region of the country. CWD has been detected in 27 States. Given the lack of any known cure, I fear that that number of States will only continue to grow.

H.R. 5608 authorizes up \$70 million of much-needed appropriations each year with the funding split evenly between CWD research and management efforts, all of this with the hope of one day eradicating this disease altogether.

The funding would support high-priority research to improve CWD detection methods and to continue invaluable research on genetic resistance. It would support the use of the latest and most effective on-the-ground management tools and strategies at the State and Tribal levels.

The bill would also help improve public awareness of the disease by requiring the development and dispersal of educational materials which would be based, obviously, on the latest available science.

Mr. Speaker, I know combatting this devastating disease would be a slow and challenging process, but I think we should all acknowledge that passage of this bill would be a critically important step in that journey and can help us protect those vulnerable deer populations.

I appreciate my colleagues' attention to this matter, and I urge the entire House in casting a resounding "yes" vote on the bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a very proud day and a proud moment for us here in the House of Representatives.

This bill is going to help our agriculture industry, our deer, and a lot of our other animals.

This chronic wasting disease has been so devastating. RON KIND has been working on this for several years. He has not just jumped on this, he has dedicated a lot of his time to this, and it is a great monument to him as he leaves his service here in the Congress. Job well done, my friend. Job well done.

Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers. As we are concluding our four bills today, I am so proud of the great work that our House Agriculture Committee has done. We have them all moving over to the Senate, and so our work, again, begins anew as it goes over.

We have good friends over there working. As I mentioned before, we are working with my colleague, Ms. STABENOW from Michigan, who is chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee; and as I mentioned before, my friend, Senator GRASSLEY. We are all going to come together and improve these four bills even more so.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. JOHNSON. I want to thank KIM SCHRIER. I want to thank our entire committee. This has been a great day, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5608.

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. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### UYGHUR FORCED LABOR PREVENTION ACT

MR. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1155) ensuring that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1155

*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 "Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China has, since 2017, arbitrarily detained as many as 1.8 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of

other Muslim minority groups in a system of extrajudicial mass internment camps, in addition to arbitrarily detaining many in formal prisons and detention centers, and has subjected detainees to forced labor, torture, political indoctrination, and other severe human rights abuses.

(2) Forced labor exists within the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region's system of mass internment camps, and throughout the region, and is confirmed by the testimony of former camp detainees, satellite imagery, official media reports, publicly available documents, official statements, and official leaked documents from the Government of the People's Republic of China as part of a targeted campaign of repression of Muslim ethnic minorities.

(3) In addition to reports from researchers and civil society groups documenting evidence that many factories and other suppliers in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are exploiting forced labor, the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security on July 22, 2020, added eleven entities to the entity list after determining the entities had been "implicated in human rights violations and abuses in the implementation of China's campaign of repression, mass arbitrary detention, forced labor and high-technology surveillance against Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other members of Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region".

(4) Audits and efforts to vet products and supply chains in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are unreliable due to the extent forced labor has been integrated into the regional economy, the mixing of involuntary labor with voluntary labor, the inability of witnesses to speak freely about working conditions given government surveillance and coercion, and the incentive of government officials to conceal government-sponsored forced labor.

(5) The Department of State's June 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report found that "Authorities offer subsidies incentivizing Chinese companies to open factories in close proximity to the internment camps, and to receive transferred detainees at satellite manufacturing sites in other provinces. Local governments receive additional funds for each inmate forced to work in these sites at a fraction of minimum wage or without any compensation."

(6) U.S. Customs and Border Protection has issued 11 "Withhold Release Orders" on products suspected to be produced with prison or forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Products subject to the "Withhold Release Orders" include all cotton, cotton products, tomatoes, and tomato products as well as certain garments, hair products, apparel, computer parts, and other products.

(7) In its 2019 Annual Report, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) found that products reportedly produced with forced labor by current and former mass internment camp detainees included textiles, electronics, food products, shoes, tea, and handicrafts.

(8) Reports in 2020 indicated that, in recent years, People's Republic of China Government authorities had organized a labor training and transfer system on a mass scale. Under this system, hundreds of thousands of rural residents of the Tibet Autonomous Region participated in "military-style" training, ideological education, and vocational training before being transferred to job postings in the Tibetan Autonomous Region or elsewhere in China. The similarity of the Tibet Autonomous Region system to that in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region raised fears that coercive practices or rights abuses may be taking place in the Tibet Autonomous Region.