

These technologies have the potential to enable broader use of Federal data sets, as privacy risks are often the greatest barrier to open government data efforts. We recognize the untapped potential and opportunity for the United States of America to lead here. The technology itself for PETs is still immature and not necessarily ready for widespread use.

My bill, H.R. 847, the Promoting Digital Privacy Technologies Act, supports research, workforce development, standard setting, and government coordination for PETs.

H.R. 847 directs the National Science Foundation to conduct fundamental privacy research that can help improve these technologies, assess their limitations, and broaden their applicability. This bill also directs the National Science Foundation to support workforce development activities in order to help address the growing shortage of privacy professionals across the United States of America.

H.R. 847 also supports activities at the National Institute of Standards and Technology to facilitate the development of standards and best practices for integration of PETs in the public and private sectors. This is the best of government in action, my friends.

Finally, H.R. 847 directs the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to coordinate Federal activities to accelerate the development of PETs across government.

Congress has been debating different proposals for privacy legislation, as we know, for many, many years. I remain hopeful and optimistic that we will get something done. In the meantime, the Promoting Digital Privacy Technologies Act will help ensure that we have the necessary tools to fully implement privacy legislation without stifling innovation. It is high time that we research ways in which privacy-enhancing technologies can be utilized to protect Americans' most sensitive and personal data.

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I also thank my colleagues—this has been a bipartisan effort—Congressman ANTHONY GONZALEZ, as well as Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO and Senator DEB FISCHER, for working with me to develop this legislation last year. I also thank our stakeholders whose feedback helped strengthen this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 847, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 847, the Promoting Digital Privacy Technologies Act. This legislation supports research activities to advance innovative technologies to safeguard individuals' privacy.

As Americans have moved more and more of their lives online, especially during the pandemic, it has also resulted in more digital consumer data

and personal information being generated than ever before.

This personal information has long been a target for cybercriminals, and it has only worsened over the pandemic. According to the Federal Trade Commission, identify theft increased by almost 3,000 percent over the past year. This problem is exacerbated by the failure of some companies to properly safeguard consumer data.

This data is a valuable asset. In 2017 "The Economist" claimed data is now the world's most valuable resource. When safely utilized, it can do a great deal to spur our economy and support innovations like artificial intelligence and machine learning. Our task is to ensure this resource doesn't fall into the hands of bad actors, putting Americans' private information at risk.

Privacy Enhancing Technologies, PETs, may be part of the solution. PETs utilize cryptography and statistics to minimize the amount of personally identifiable information while ensuring the data sets are still usable. However, more research is needed to understand PETs' applicability and to encourage further development and adoption.

This bill requires the National Science Foundation to support fundamental research into PETs, the mathematics that is the foundation of PETs, and additional technologies that promote data minimization principles. The legislation also directs NIST to work with stakeholders to develop voluntary consensus standards for incorporating these technologies into Federal and commercial applications.

I thank Chairwoman STEVENS and Representative GONZALEZ for leading this very important legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, while the data revolution offers an opportunity to solve many of the world's grand challenges, we must also ensure these innovations don't put Americans' private information at risk. By supporting further research on privacy-enhancing technologies through this legislation, we are taking important steps to strengthen consumer privacy while enabling the use of consumer data.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in encouraging Members of this legislative body to support H.R. 847. I recognize that privacy-enhancing technologies are an innovation opportunity for the United States of America. The role that the National Institute of Standards and Technology will play with this legislation will convene industry stakeholders and nonprofit groups to a standard set, which is certainly welcome by many, and will also ensure us the ability to continue to succeed and compete in years to come.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 847, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5324) to provide guidance for and investment in the upgrade and modernization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards network, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5324

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 "NOAA Weather Radio Modernization Act of 2021" or "NWR Modernization Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Administrator" means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(b) **NOAA WEATHER RADIO.**—The term "NOAA Weather Radio" means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards network.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide network of transmitters that are critical to protecting life and property by broadcasting weather and other hazard alerts.

(2) NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts currently reach 95 percent of the United States population.

(3) NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts originate from all National Weather Service Offices, but are only available via a receiver located in sufficient proximity to a radio transmitting tower.

(4) There are limited options to obtain NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts via the Internet or mobile device application, which are provided by volunteer mechanisms obtaining the audio feed in an ad hoc manner.

(5) NOAA Weather Radio should provide equal access and availability to unimpeded broadcasts of weather and non-weather hazards to every person located within the United States, its territories, and tribal lands.

SEC. 4. UPGRADING EXISTING SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, expand coverage of the NOAA Weather Radio and ensure its reliability. In doing so, the Administrator shall—

(1) maintain support for existing systems serving areas not covered by or having poor quality cellular service;

(2) ensure consistent maintenance and operations monitoring, with timely repairs to broadcast transmitter site equipment and antennas; and

(3) enhance the ability to amplify Non-Weather Emergency Messages via NOAA Weather Radio as necessary.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 to remain available until expended.

(c) **EXPANDING ACCESS.**—As part of the activities in this section, the Administrator shall acquire additional transmitters as required to expand coverage to rural and underserved communities, national parks, and recreation areas.

SEC. 5. MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In parallel to the activities under section 4, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enhance NOAA Weather Radio to ensure its capabilities and coverage remain valuable to the public. In carrying out these activities, the Administrator shall—

(1) upgrade the telecommunications infrastructure to accelerate the transition of broadcasts to Internet Protocol-based communications over non-copper media;

(2) accelerate software upgrades to the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, or the relevant system successors, in order to implement partial county notifications and alerts;

(3) consult with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to enhance accessibility and usability of NOAA Weather Radio data and feeds;

(4) develop options, including, but not limited to, satellite backup capability and commercial provider partnerships for NOAA Weather Radio continuity in the event of Weather Forecast Office outages;

(5) research and develop alternative options, including, but not limited to, microwave capabilities, to transmit NOAA Weather Radio signals to transmitters that are remote or do not have IP capability; and

(6) transition critical applications to the Integrated Dissemination Program, or the relevant program successors.

(b) **PRIORITY.**—In carrying out the objectives described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall prioritize practices, capabilities, and technologies recommended by the assessment in subsection (c), to maximize accessibility, particularly in remote and underserved areas of the country.

(c) **ASSESSMENT FOR MANAGEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall complete an assessment of access to NOAA Weather Radio. In conducting such an assessment, the Administrator shall take into consideration and provide recommendations on—

(1) the need for continuous, adequate, and operational real-time broadcasts of the NOAA Weather Radio in both urban and rural areas;

(2) solicited inputs from relevant stakeholders on the compatibility of NOAA Weather Radio data for third party platforms that provide online services, such as websites and mobile device applications, or deliver NOAA Weather Radio access;

(3) existing or new management systems, which promote consistent, efficient, and compatible access to NOAA Weather Radio;

(4) the ability of NOAA to aggregate real time broadcast feeds at one or more central locations;

(5) effective interagency coordination;

(6) the potential effects of an electromagnetic pulse or geomagnetic disturbance on NOAA Weather Radio; and

(7) any other function the Administrator deems necessary.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$40,000,000 to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5324, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

I voice my support for this bipartisan legislation led by Ranking Member BICE and Chairwoman SHERRILL of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's Environment Subcommittee. The NWR Modernization Act of 2021 will direct NOAA to undertake various updates to the NOAA Weather Radio. NOAA Weather Radio serves as a consistent and reliable source of weather forecasts, warnings, and watches from the National Weather Service to communities across America—something that is all too palpable to Americans today given the rise of extreme weather incidents.

Because of its broad reach and continuous coverage, NOAA Weather Radio also provides information related to natural disasters and other hazardous, nonweather events. In order to ensure that NOAA Weather Radio can continue to provide reliable, life-saving information, it is vital to ensure the system is upgraded to reflect the modern era. This bill requires NOAA to require more transmitters and update vital software and telecommunications infrastructure to support operation of NOAA Weather Radio and enhance its transmission of nonweather emergency messages. These updates should help to expand NOAA Weather Radio coverage to ensure all communities, especially underserved rural communities, receive these critical alerts.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will provide benefits to many across this incredible country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5324, the NOAA Weather Radio Modernization Act, is dedicated to supporting, upgrading, and modernizing one of the best alert systems we have for extreme weather and other dangerous events.

The NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards system, known as NWR, is a highly successful, nationwide network of stations that broadcasts natural, environmental, and safety alerts to the public through radio broadcast frequencies.

Whether it is an earthquake, tornado, chemical release, oil spill, or

AMBER Alert, the NWR broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to 95 percent of the U.S. population. It is life-saving and informative to everyone, no matter their location. Simply put, NWR is the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information.

Many of my constituents in Oklahoma heard alerts through their National Weather Radio receiver last week when severe weather and tornadoes struck Seminole County in the late evening. Thankfully, there have been no reported casualties, and that is due in large part to citizens heeding the warnings of the NWR.

The NWR is consistent, as it operates even when the power goes out and cell service is down. It is also trusted because of its accuracy and long track record of saving lives. But as with all technology, it needs to be upgraded and modernized to remain just as effective in the future as well as ensure current outages are short and infrequent.

It was almost three decades ago, in the late 1990s, that the NWR network received its last upgrade. Since that time, operations and maintenance costs related to transmitters and antennas have increased. It should be obvious that technology has greatly advanced, as the very first iPhone wasn't available when these upgrades took place.

As the world becomes more digitized, we must ensure that older systems like this that protect lives and property don't get lost in the shuffle. That is why I introduced this legislation. H.R. 5324 authorizes upgrades to the existing system through timely repairs and ensures that the reliable infrastructure in place is not abandoned. This will help outages become less common.

Mr. Speaker, to give you an idea of this need, right before coming down here, I checked the NWR's website to see that 19 transmitters are currently out of service, and nine are experiencing degraded signal. That means 28 areas and surrounding communities are at risk of severe events with minimal warning.

This legislation also establishes a modernization initiative for broadcasts to transmit to IP-based communications and develop options for backup capabilities and enhanced signal transmission. This paves the way for future development and provides failsafe options, so NWR is never down for an extended period of time.

Last but not least, H.R. 5324 requires NOAA to conduct an assessment of NWR access. This will ensure that the modernization efforts are effective and people across the country have easy, reliable access in a manner that is in line with modern technology.

The benefits of the National Weather Radio right now are numerous. The signal can easily reach and educate vulnerable communities. It can cover both land and marine warnings. And when a disaster is over, NWR can issue an all-

clear for a community that might be battered, but whose people are safe. Therefore, we should ensure its continued use by supporting its reliability and efforts to bring the system into the 21st century. I am proud to have introduced this legislation that does exactly that and will protect the lives of Oklahomans, as well as communities across the Nation.

I thank the Environment Subcommittee Chairwoman SHERRILL for leading this bill with me and for her efforts to work across the aisle for its passage. I also thank Representatives KILMER, LATURNER, BONAMICI, and ELLZEY for cosponsoring it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to reflect. The Congresswoman from Oklahoma mentioned something that I believe is important to reiterate, which is that the technology adoptions occurred before the iPhone. Last June, in Oakland County, Michigan, the city of Farmington and Farmington Hills experienced an extreme weather event otherwise known as a supercell. This is rapid winds at a high level, multiple—hundreds of feet, sometimes up in the air, ripping large trees from their roots. It was very destructive. There was no warning. It terrified residents of my district.

We also reflect that in Mason City, Iowa, just last month, there was a major tornado that blew through, again, without warning. So this is very real and palpable to the American people.

I again recognize the leadership of the Congresswoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL), who is the subcommittee chair of the Environment Subcommittee, for her leadership, along with the Congresswoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) for bringing us this very critical bill.

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

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and dean of the Oklahoma delegation.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Oklahoma for yielding and for introducing this legislation.

H.R. 5324, the NOAA Weather Radio Modernization Act of 2021, is a straightforward, lifesaving bill introduced by my esteemed colleague from Oklahoma, Representative STEPHANIE BICE, who is the ranking member of the Environment Subcommittee.

Last week, nearly the entire State of Oklahoma experienced an outbreak in severe weather and a number of confirmed tornadoes. That is not uncommon for this time of year, and our citizens were well prepared.

While there was significant damage and widespread power outages, there

have been no confirmed deaths at this point. That is because of the lifesaving efforts of NOAA, the National Weather Service, and warning capabilities like the NOAA Weather Radio, also known as NWR.

Day or night, power or no power, in a rural area or in the heart of the city, an NWR device loudly alerts you and your family to severe weather nearby. Most Oklahomans have grown up listening to these announcements, and we know to act when we hear them. That saves lives. But since NWR was designated as the sole government provider of direct warnings to private homes in 1975, the system has gone through few upgrades other than broadly expanding access across the country.

The NWR's aging infrastructure has led to increased maintenance costs and more frequent outages. The copper wiring that connects broadcast transmitters to Weather Service stations has become obsolete and expensive. More powerful storms require backup options and stronger signals in case of extensive damage to mission critical facilities.

The NWR Modernization Act addresses these challenges and gives NOAA the authority and resources to ensure the NWR is as useful in the 21st century as it has been for the last four decades. This legislation continues to expand access to NWR, but does so while ensuring the system does not become obsolete with out-of-date technology.

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Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Environment Subcommittee, Ranking Member BICE and Chairwoman SHERRILL, for leading on this critical issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I would simply note that we pass lots of pieces of legislation in this body every session. But every so often, we address a piece of legislation that makes a real difference in the lives of people, a piece of legislation that deserves to move as swiftly as possible through the process to enable its implementation.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank all of my colleagues, and I urge a yes vote.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the NWR Modernization Act of 2021 will ensure the continued safety of all Americans when experiencing severe weather and other emergency events. We have seen examples as recent as the past month of the NOAA Weather Radio saving lives in Oklahoma, Iowa, and Colorado.

Although the National Weather Radio coverage is currently available to 95 percent of the U.S. population, I see no reason why we shouldn't strive for 100 percent. Every citizen, no matter how remote or isolated their location, deserves equal access to this lifesaving service.

Additionally, because we have seen just how effective NWR is, we need to

support its modernization and continued use for decades to come. Many services across different industries have used technology to adapt to a more modern age, and our country's emergency alert system should be no different. This bill allows NOAA to achieve both of those goals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, NOAA Weather Radio is absolutely essential. We have a bill to modernize it. The American people need it now.

H.R. 5324, the NWR Modernization Act of 2021, has my full support. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5324, 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. 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.

SOUTH FLORIDA CLEAN COASTAL WATERS ACT OF 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 66) to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 66

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 “South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-383; 33 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 605 through 609 as sections 606 through 610, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

“SEC. 605. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA.

“(a) SOUTH FLORIDA.—In this section, the term ‘South Florida’ means—

“(1) all lands and waters within the administrative boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District;

“(2) regional coastal waters, including Biscayne Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estuary,