

In 2004, Congress enacted legislation requiring the Secretary of Interior to illuminate the Gateway Arch with pink lights in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month each October.

In 2015, the Gateway Arch was illuminated gold to commemorate its 50th anniversary. Most recently, in 2020, the Gateway Arch was illuminated purple and gold to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

The Gateway Solidarity Act, as amended, would require the Secretary of the Interior to illuminate the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, in blue and yellow lights for 5 days following enactment, and annually on August 24th, in recognition of Ukrainian Independence Day, until the President reports to Congress that Russia has ceased its hostilities against Ukraine.

I thank Representative WAGNER for sponsoring this bill. The bill's sponsor regrets that she was unable to be here today due to weather delays.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7002, 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. NORMAN. 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 question are postponed.

ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS-CENTERED INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7025) to prohibit the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from funding entities that commit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7025

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 "Advancing Human Rights-Centered International Conservation Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee of Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **COVERED RECIPIENT.**—The term "covered recipient" means any entity that receives financial assistance from the Director for the purpose of international activities or a subrecipient as defined in section 200.1 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, of such entity with respect to a grant issued by the Director.

(3) **CREDIBLE INFORMATION.**—The term "credible information" means information that, considering the source of such information and the surrounding circumstances, supports a reasonable belief that an event has occurred or will occur.

(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term "Director" means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(5) **GROSS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.**—The term "gross violation of internationally recognized human rights" has the meaning given that term in section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1)).

(6) **INSPECTOR GENERAL.**—The term "Inspector General" means the Inspector General for the Department of the Interior.

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term "the Secretary" means the Secretary of State.

(8) **SERVICE.**—The term "Service" means the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(9) **UNIT OF A FOREIGN SECURITY FORCE.**—The term "unit of a foreign security force" means a unit of—

(A) a foreign military;

(B) a foreign police force;

(C) a foreign paramilitary group;

(D) any person providing security services to a foreign government; and

(E) such other organizations as the Secretary of State determines appropriate.

SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION GRANT RESTRICTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall ensure that no international financial assistance provided by the Director shall be furnished to any covered recipient or subrecipient for funding or supporting any unit of a foreign security force if the Director or the Secretary of State has credible information that such unit has committed a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply if the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, determines and reports to the appropriate Congressional committees that the applicable national government, and covered recipient or subrecipient as appropriate, is taking effective steps to bring the responsible members of the unit of a foreign security force to justice and to prevent gross violations of internationally recognized human rights by the unit in the future.

(c) **RISK ANALYSIS.**—In performing a risk assessment analysis for a grant to a covered recipient, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall include the occurrence of human rights violations by individuals employed, funded, or supported by the covered recipient or subrecipient as a factor in such analysis.

(d) **PROCEDURES TO IDENTIFY HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS.**—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish, and periodically update, procedures to—

(1) avoid duplication of effort with respect to vetting a unit of a foreign security force

under this Act and vetting carried out under section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d);

(2) carry out the requirements of section 4;

(3) ensure that for each country the Director and the Secretary have a current list of all units of foreign security forces receiving training, equipment, or other types of assistance through covered recipients or subrecipients;

(4) ensure that when an individual is designated to receive United States training, equipment, or other types of assistance the individual's unit is vetted as well as the individual;

(5) seek to identify the unit involved with respect to any credible information of a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights in any nation in which a covered recipient or subrecipient provides funding, training, equipment, or other assistance to a unit of a foreign security force; and

(6) make publicly available the identity of those units for which no assistance shall be furnished pursuant to subsection (a) unless such publication would create a risk to national security or the health and safety of a victim of a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights.

SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION GRANT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE A GRANT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall incorporate into the terms of an agreement for financial assistance to a covered recipient and require a duly designated representative of the covered recipient to certify before receiving the award that—

(A) the covered recipient will not commit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in carrying out the activities under the award;

(B) the covered recipient has provided a list to the Director of each subrecipient to which the covered recipient intends to provide funding using such financial assistance and has provided a certification from each subrecipient that such subrecipient will not commit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in carrying out the activities under the award;

(C) the covered recipient has provided the Director with the covered recipient's and each subrecipient's written policy on maintaining standards for conduct consistent with recognized international human rights standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;

(D) the covered recipient has implemented and is enforcing a social safeguards plan described in subsection (b)(1);

(E) the covered recipient has implemented procedures to detect, investigate, discipline or terminate a subrecipient, employee, or agent of the covered recipient that fails to comply with applicable policies to protect human rights in connection with the award; and

(F) the covered recipient will comply with the requirements established in this section.

(2) **SUBSEQUENT SUBRECIPIENT.**—If, after receiving an award of funds from the Director, a covered recipient selects a new subrecipient, the covered recipient shall provide the Director with—

(A) an updated version of the list described in paragraph (1)(B);

(B) a certification from such subrecipient that such subrecipient will not commit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in carrying out the activities under the award;

(C) the subrecipient's written policy described in paragraph (1)(C); and

(D) justification for any changes in selection of subrecipients.

(b) SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A social safeguards plan described in this paragraph is a plan consistent with the principles of the documents listed in subsection (a)(1)(C) to implement appropriate human rights standards and prevent gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in connections with activities funded under the award that includes, as determined appropriate by the Director, taking into consideration the location, size, complexity, and scope of the award—

(A) a process for meaningful consultation and engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to safeguard their rights, including obtaining their free, prior, and informed consent for any new land-use restriction and, if applicable, procedures for the fair resolution of existing land and resource claims, in the area in which the project will be conducted;

(B) requirements for internal review of research involving human subjects;

(C) measures to improve governance, increase the agency and protect the rights and needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and address the potential adverse impacts of a project on the well-being and security of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

(D) a grievance redress mechanism to redress gross violations of internationally recognized human rights;

(E) human rights training and effective monitoring by the recipient for law enforcement personnel and units of a foreign security force; and

(F) publication of documents, such as park management plans and ranger codes of conduct, that are relevant to potential impacts of the project on Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

(2) GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—To assist covered recipients develop, implement, and enforce a social safeguard plan that meets the requirements of paragraph (1), the Director may—

(A) develop and publish guidance on developing, implementing, and enforcing a social safeguard plan; and

(B) provide technical assistance to covered recipients and subrecipients.

(c) REQUIREMENT TO REMEDY VIOLATIONS.—The Director may require a covered recipient to take such measures to address an alleged violation of the terms of an agreement required by subsection (a) as the Director determines appropriate.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) INITIAL NOTIFICATION.—A covered recipient shall refer all credible information of a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights in connection with a Service award by such covered recipient or a subrecipient of such covered recipient to the Director and to the diplomatic or consular post of the United States for the country at issue as soon as reasonably practicable, but not later than 30 days after the date on which the covered recipient knew or should have known such information.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the first date on which a covered recipient provides notification under paragraph (1), the covered recipient shall submit to the Director a report describing specific steps taken to address an alleged violation and enforce the requirements of the covered recipient's plan pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(D) and all relevant information relating to the allegation.

(3) EXTENSION.—The Director may grant a covered recipient an extension of not more than 30 days on the time period to file a report under paragraph (2) if the Director de-

termines that such extension will improve the Director's ability to carry out the purposes of this section.

(4) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED RECIPIENT.—The covered recipient shall fully cooperate with any Federal agencies responsible for audits, investigations, or corrective actions relating to gross violations of human rights under this Act.

(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AWARDING PROGRAM.—The head of the program that awarded the financial assistance shall, with respect to each allegation reported under paragraph (1), not later than 30 days after receipt of the report required by paragraph (2), complete an investigation, in consultation with the diplomatic or consular post of the United States for the country at issue, into such allegation and submit the results of such investigation, information received under paragraph (1), and each report received under paragraph (2) relating to such allegation to the Director and the diplomatic or consular post of the United States for the country at issue.

(e) NOTIFICATION.—If the Director receives credible information of a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights by a covered recipient or a subrecipient of a covered recipient in connection with an award provided by the Service, then the Director shall, in consultation with the diplomatic or consular post of the United States for the applicable country—

(1) immediately notify the relevant covered recipient and require that the covered recipient submit a report under subsection (d)(2) not later than 60 days after such notification;

(2) immediately notify the government of the applicable country if the Director determines such notification is appropriate; and

(3) to the maximum extent practicable, assist such government in taking effective measures to bring the responsible members of the unit of a foreign security force to justice.

(f) REVIEW OF ALLEGATIONS.—

(1) REFERRAL.—Unless the covered recipient submits information showing, to the satisfaction of the Director, that the alleged violation has been resolved, abated, or did not occur, the Director shall, not later than 30 days after receiving information relating to an allegation under subsection (d)(5), refer such alleged violation to the Inspector General and the diplomatic or consular post of the United States for the country at issue, including the report provided by the covered recipient under subsection (d)(2), and notify the covered recipient of such referral.

(2) INVESTIGATION.—

(A) PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION.—The Inspector General shall, not later than 30 days after a referral of an alleged violation under paragraph (1), determine whether the referral requires an investigation and may make a recommendation to the Director as to whether the award should be suspended during the course of the investigation.

(B) SUSPENSION OF AWARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon receiving a recommendation from the Inspector General under subparagraph (A), the Director may suspend the award until a final disposition of such award under subsection (g).

(ii) APPEAL.—A covered recipient may appeal a suspension under subsection (g) pursuant to subpart G of part 4, Code of Federal Regulations.

(C) DETERMINATION THAT NO INVESTIGATION IS REQUIRED.—If the Inspector General determines under subparagraph (A) that the referral does not require further investigation, the Inspector General shall document the rationale for such determination and shall notify the relevant Committees of Congress.

(D) DETERMINATION THAT AN INVESTIGATION IS REQUIRED.—If the Inspector General determines that an investigation is required under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall complete such investigation not later than 180 days after a referral under paragraph (1) and prepare a report on such investigation, which shall include—

(i) the Inspector General's conclusions regarding whether or not any allegations that the covered recipient or any subrecipient of the covered recipient has committed a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights in connection with the award are substantiated and regarding the effectiveness of the actions of the recipient and any subrecipient in preventing and responding to such violations;

(ii) recommendations based on the findings of such investigation; and

(iii) a recommendation on whether the award should be terminated.

(E) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—The Inspector General shall provide the report required by subparagraph (C) to the Director and the diplomatic or consular post of the United States for the country at issue.

(g) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES.—The following requirements apply to any administrative action to enforce the requirements of this section with respect to a covered recipient:

(1) WRITTEN RESPONSE.—A covered recipient subject to administrative action under this subsection may submit, not later than 30 days after the date of such administrative action, a written response to contest such action.

(2) MEETING.—The Director, or a representative, shall meet with a covered recipient that has filed a response under subparagraph (1) and requests such a meeting not later than 45 days after the date of such administrative action to allow such covered recipient an opportunity to present information, including witness testimony, for inclusion in the administrative record.

(3) TIMELINE FOR DETERMINATION.—The Director shall, not later than 45 days after conclusion of any procedures required by paragraphs (1) and (2), make a determination in writing as to whether to continue, modify, or terminate an administrative action under this subsection.

(4) RECONSIDERATION.—A covered recipient that was the subject of an administrative action under this subsection may request a reconsideration of such administrative action based upon—

(A) newly discovered evidence;

(B) a change in ownership or management; or

(C) such other factors as the Director determines appropriate.

(h) FINANCIAL AND PROGRAMMATIC AUDIT OF GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall perform and require compliance with periodic financial and programmatic audits of covered recipients receiving financial assistance from the Director. The Director shall prioritize audits of programs—

(A) with new land-use restrictions;

(B) in fragile or conflict-affected states; or

(C) in regions that otherwise have an elevated risk of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

(2) SPECIFIC AWARD CONDITION AUDITS.—The Director shall carry out regular audits of any covered recipient that is subject to specific award conditions under subsection (i).

(i) REMEDIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—Each agreement for financial assistance made by the Director with a covered recipient is subject to the provisions of subpart D of part 200 of chapter II of subtitle A of title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Director may consider, in determining an appropriate

remedy of a violation of a grant requirement under such provision, whether the covered recipient was in compliance with subsection (a)(1)(D) at the time of such violation.

(j) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report summarizing, with respect to the previous calendar year—

(1) each report received under subsection (d)(2);

(2) each investigation concluded by the Inspector General under subsection (f)(2), including the purpose and duration of such investigation;

(3) each administrative action taken with respect to a covered recipient to enforce this Act;

(4) information about the action taken by each covered recipient to abate a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights;

(5) information about remedial actions taken by the Director pursuant to subsection (i);

(6) explanations for each extension of time given under subsection (d)(3); and

(7) a summary of allegations and information that the Director did not refer to the Inspector General and the explanation for why such information was not referred.

(k) SAFEGUARD FOR SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director may take such measures and withhold such information as the Director determines necessary to protect the safety of individuals—

(1) who are victims, or at risk of being victims, of a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights; and

(2) who provide information regarding a potential gross violation of internationally recognized human rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7025 is a bipartisan bill led by the chair and the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee. It will significantly improve the management and oversight of international conservation programs at the Department of the Interior.

Over the past couple of years, our committee conducted a bipartisan investigation into the role of the Worldwide Wildlife Fund, or WWF, and the Department of the Interior, DOI, regarding allegations of human rights abuses at conservation parks around the world.

The reports are deeply upsetting, describing decades of abuse toward indigenous and local people in the name of conservation.

The committee's oversight hearing in October revealed numerous shortcomings in how WWF carries out its work and how DOI oversees grant funding in challenging locations.

These allegations aren't unique. Leading voices at the U.N. and elsewhere have, for years, warned of grave abuses in the name of conservation, in large part due to the colonial-based "fortress conservation model" that kicked indigenous and local people off their lands to set up protected areas.

International conservation efforts are critical to the success of our national security, international development, climate, and biodiversity goals.

However, when investing in these goals, we must ensure commonsense safeguards are in place that protect human rights. This bill does that.

First, it expands human rights vetting to international Fish and Wildlife Service-funded conservation projects. It prohibits Fish and Wildlife Service funds from going to armed groups that commit gross violations of human rights.

Second, the bill establishes a thorough, fair, and transparent process for investigating credible allegations of human rights abuses.

Third, this legislation weaves the highest human rights standards into grant contracts.

This bill is common sense, it is good government, and it will make international conservation more successful, benefiting local and indigenous community members and the planet.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7025, the Advancing Human Rights-Centered International Conservation Act of 2022.

This bill is the result of a bipartisan investigation on how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's international grant program helped fund human rights atrocities committed by eco-paramilitary forces in Africa and elsewhere.

The bipartisan investigation led to an oversight hearing at the Committee on Natural Resources last year, where we heard from expert witnesses about the need for reform in this program. The hearing and the findings of our investigation ultimately led to this bill.

The fundamental concepts of this bill are agency accountability and transparency. This bill would specifically require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to vet the human rights record of conservation groups and their subgrantees prior to awarding the grant.

The inclusion of subgrantees is critical. Unfortunately, we have seen some conservation groups avoid taking responsibility for the actions of their subgrantees.

Experts, such as Wake Forest University International Law Professor John Knox, who has extensive knowledge on

this issue, recommended this reform. Mr. Knox and other witnesses and experts have been instrumental in helping the committee throughout the legislative process.

The experts and bipartisan members of the committee agree that the Federal Government has a responsibility to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are not being spent to perpetuate human rights abuses. This bill requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to live up to that responsibility.

This legislation is a much-needed and significant change from the status quo. This is a matter where both sides of the aisle have come together to ensure our conservation efforts do not occur at the cost of human lives.

I thank Ranking Member WESTERMAN and Chairman GRIJALVA and their staffs for their hard work and cooperation on this bill. I urge adoption of this bill and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for mentioning Professor Knox. He was an outstanding witness in our hearings on this subject.

The truth is, the product of 3 years of work that is before us today was a really good exercise in bipartisan leadership, so I appreciate that.

I have no further requests for time and am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7025, 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. NORMAN. 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 question are postponed.

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7693) to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Park Foundation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7693

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 "National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2022".