

Skamania County has also already made considerable investments to restore this site with upgrades to water mains, full restorations to two residential buildings, and electric improvements to four additional buildings.

I, again, thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) for her leadership on this bill. The legislation reflects a locally driven compromise that meets the needs of the community, creates additional recreation opportunities, and will lead to better management of Federal land.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER).

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act which, if we get it passed today by the House and signed into law, will provide enormous benefits to the folks I serve in Skamania County, Washington.

This bill exemplifies a groundbreaking win-win agreement in a rural county where so often locals' needs get completely trampled by the Federal Government.

With this carefully negotiated solution, the Forest Service unloads land that it no longer wants to manage, and the local community gains a very valuable economic asset and resource.

In Skamania County, where 80 percent of the land is locked up by the Federal Government, even more if you count the State-owned land, only 1.8 percent of the land in the county is taxed at full market value.

What does that mean?

It means that this has severely hindered the county's ability to fund basic services that citizens rely upon, like roads and schools, and police and fire protection.

The bill that I have introduced and that we are considering today is simple. It would convey ownership of approximately 23 acres in the former Wind River Nursery from the U.S. Forest Service to Skamania County. It is important to note here that this proposal is supported by Skamania County and by the Forest Service.

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest, which covers a majority of the county, is currently facing tens of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance.

By conveying the land to the county, the Forest Service will shed that financial responsibility for these pieces associated with the maintenance of buildings and facilities on the Wind River Nursery, and by taking ownership of the land, Skamania County will develop recreational, historical, and business opportunities that will draw in tourism and critical revenue.

This is a win-win solution, and it will result in substantial benefits to the folks who call Skamania County home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to approve this important legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to visit Skamania County. It is a beautiful place, and I know that the people there will be great stewards of this land. It will be good for Skamania County, for Washington, and for the United States, and I urge adoption of the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5093, 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.

#### INCLUDING CERTAIN COMPUTER-RELATED PROJECTS IN THE FEDERAL PERMITTING PROGRAM UNDER TITLE XLI OF THE FAST ACT

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3451) to include certain computer-related projects in the Federal permitting program under title XLI of the FAST Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3451

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT.

Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)(A)) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "semiconductors, artificial intelligence and machine learning, high-performance computing and advanced computer hardware and software, quantum information science and technology, data storage and data management, cybersecurity," after "manufacturing,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that I believe has bipartisan support involving the construction of chip manufacturing and other computer-related manufacturing rights here in the United States. Obviously, this is a big effort that has been ongoing in Congress for some time.

The bill here simply adds key national security-related technologies, like semiconductors, to the types of projects that are eligible for an existing Federal program that improves the coordination between Federal departments on permitting. We oftentimes, as we know, have difficulty in getting the permitting process to work, and it creates delays in process. It not only takes time, but it increases costs. So this is an effort to try to address that.

The bill passed the Senate unanimously back in January. Sending this bill to the President will build on the progress we are already making today with the CHIPS and Science Act.

Both bills are critical to America leading in manufacturing of chips. We know that it is the future of the 21st century economy that creates good jobs and ensures our competitiveness in the global economy that we live in.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House's adoption of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of S. 3451. However, when we start sacrificing regular order to score political points, we are on an extremely slippery slope. Unfortunately, that is the course this bill sets us on.

It didn't move through the Committee on Natural Resources, the committee of jurisdiction. Instead, it was one of the many promises made by Democrat leadership to secure the votes they needed in the Senate to pass the CHIPS-Plus Act.

The irony of this, Mr. Speaker, is yesterday we were in an all-day long markup in the Natural Resources Committee on Chairman GRIJALVA's Environmental Justice for All Act, which is a bill that really doubles down on NEPA regulations. Obviously, we have differences of opinion on that, but we were having the debate. Democrats wanted to increase NEPA regulations, Republicans wanted to streamline regulations.

So you can imagine the shock when Chairman GRIJALVA's staff, almost simultaneously with my staff, told us to be prepared tomorrow afternoon because there is going to be a NEPA streamlining bill on the suspension calendar.

When I was told the bill was being added, I thought to myself, this bill didn't go through regular order, and this is something my colleagues across the aisle would normally really be opposed to. So I Googled the bill, and it turns out that S. 3451 is but a bargaining chip in the larger CHIPS debate.

This is what I found on the internet. It said, "From yesterday's Roll Call, as they reported on the CHIPS-Plus package." A quote from that is: "One of the Republicans who voted for the bill . . . had sought an amendment to fast track the permitting process for companies building semiconductor plants . . . instead he was promised that the House would clear his Senate-passed bill."

This legislation, S. 3451, provides modest permit streamlining to expedite reviews of infrastructure projects concerning semiconductors, artificial intelligence and machine learning, high-performance computing and advanced computer hardware and software, quantum information science and technology, data storage, and data management, or cybersecurity.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support streamlining. In fact, for the last 18 months, Republicans on the Committee on Natural Resources have been calling to move legislation that would streamline the onerous NEPA process, cut bureaucratic red tape, and fight back against environmental activist litigants, the kinds of meaningful actions Congress needs to take to move our country forward.

I woke up this morning, and I was reading online my local newspaper back home. There was actually a story about the CHIPS Act that talked about this very bill that we have on the suspension calendar today. I found it interesting that someone from the Sierra Club was interviewed about it.

Now, normally if you are going to streamline NEPA, it sets Sierra Club's hair on fire, and they are calling all of their activists and putting alerts out. But it was interesting that on this one, the Sierra Club was going to study the text a little bit more, even though we are here this afternoon passing this on suspension.

These commonsense Republican solutions are crucial to improving the health of our Federal lands, repairing our crumbling infrastructure, constructing water storage projects needed to make our Western communities more resilient to drought, and developing America's domestic resources to secure our supply chain and our country.

In response, Democrats have repeatedly told us we were gutting bedrock environmental laws, and that we support pillaging the land from sea to shining sea.

Just yesterday, I spent, as I mentioned, over 10 hours in a Committee on Natural Resources markup where the Democrats advanced a bill—we not only debated it; we marked it up and advanced it—a bill to expand NEPA, create more burdensome red tape, and handcuff our great Nation from future development.

Now, today, after years of committee Republicans hearing how we are trying to destroy America, suddenly the exact same commonsense streamlining and

reasonable sideboards on frivolous litigation are necessary to build semiconductor plants and America's future.

This bill is only part of the solution. While building domestic chip manufacturing facilities is important and we want to bring those jobs to the United States for American workers, the reality is there is not much domestic about a chip made with 100 percent foreign materials.

For instance, today, the United States is 100 percent reliant on other countries to meet our demand for gallium and indium, both of which are needed in semiconductors. China is the lead supplier for both.

Semiconductors also require a mineral called bismuth, 90 percent of which the U.S. imports. Again, China is the lead supplier to the U.S. of bismuth.

Semiconductors are among dozens of high-tech commodities, such as satellites, electric vehicles, and missile defense systems reliant on mineral resources to function. China unquestionably controls the market on nearly every one of the necessary minerals.

If we truly want to secure the supply chain for semiconductors and the huge array of other products dependent on critical minerals, it is imperative to ensure a robust domestic mining industry through an efficient, predictable mine permitting system here in the United States.

While the bill before us is a step in the right direction, it does not address the supply chain necessary to build our domestic high-tech manufacturing technology.

Republicans have the solutions. To name a few: H.R. 2604, the Accessing America's Critical Mineral Act, introduced by Congressman PETE STAUBER, reforms onerous and duplicative steps in the critical mineral permitting process by requiring Federal agencies to adhere to timelines and improve coordination.

H.R. 2637, the American Critical Minerals Independence Act, introduced by Congressmen MICHAEL WALTZ and PAUL GOSAR, invests in recycling technologies and innovative mining and processing techniques, streamlines the permitting of critical minerals production, and requires that agencies analyze the mineral potential of Federal lands.

If Democrats were serious about streamlining and promoting a robust domestic manufacturing sector for semiconductors and other high-tech applications, they would be bringing these bills and others to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3451 is a modest step in the right direction, and I support the passage of this bill. Now that it appears Democrats have seen the error of their ways and they suddenly have done a 180 on streamlining environmental bureaucracy, I look forward to working with each and every Member who votes for this bill to advance many other Republican solutions to further address streamlining and secure a robust domestic critical minerals supply chain.

Unfortunately, while I would like to say that, with Democrats' newfound support of streamlining, the remaining Republican solutions will be coming to the floor quickly, something tells me Democrats' willingness to ignore environmental extremists and bring up commonsense policy solutions like S. 3451 has a lot more to do with politics than making good policy.

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

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

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, clearly, I think there is an agreement that America needs to increase its production of critical minerals for the economy of the 21st century. I think oftentimes there are differences on how we establish a framework and a goal in terms of the production of those critical minerals.

I think that there is support on both sides of the aisle for streamlining the permitting process that is reflected in this bill, and, clearly, I appreciate the efforts and the comments of my colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas. Obviously, we have more work to do, and this is a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House's adoption, and I yield the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3451.

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 yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. With respect to a unanimous consent request entered earlier today by Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona, the Chair would clarify that such request cannot be entertained with respect to H.R. 4270.

#### PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4720

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4720, a bill originally introduced by Representative REED of New York, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.