

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2710, the Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act of 2021.

This legislation requires the Secretary of the Treasury to report to Congress semiannually with a copy of any license Treasury issues in the preceding 180 days that authorizes a U.S. financial institution to provide services benefitting a state sponsor of terrorism and certain other sanctioned entities, including human rights abusers and corrupt officials. It would sunset 7 years after enactment of the act.

I am supportive of the disclosure requirements in this bill because I believe that this after-the-fact reporting to congressional committees regarding these specific licenses can serve as a useful oversight tool.

When the Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC, issues a specific license, it allows a particular individual or entity to engage in a transaction that would otherwise be prohibited under a United States sanctions program. Typically, specific licenses are granted by OFAC when the person or entity requesting such a license makes clear that allowing for the permitted transactions serves a compelling public policy goal. But currently, Treasury does not release specific licenses granted to individuals or entities or any information about them.

OFAC's licensing authority is an important part of an effective administration of United States sanctions, and disclosure is an important part of Congress' ability to conduct effective oversight.

Now, there is a risk that if some licenses were to become public, they would disclose commercially sensitive information to potential market competitors, introducing issues of corporate theft and unfair competition. That is why the bill allows for sensitive information in these licenses to be included in a classified annex to the report. Moving forward, we may want to examine whether this provides sufficient protection for proprietary or commercially sensitive information submitted by private-sector representatives which may not be classified and, if publicly released, would allow potential market competitors to gain an unfair competitive advantage. We certainly do not want to create a chilling effect and a wariness on behalf of companies about continuing to file for licenses moving forward, and we should guard against that.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, I support the underlying goal and the disclosure requirements of H.R. 2710 because I believe they will increase congressional oversight of United States' sanctions activity. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank the Chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, the gen-

tlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), for bringing the bill to the floor today.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2710, the Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act. This bill that I authored represents an important step forward for oversight of the Treasury Department's sanctions program.

Under current law, Treasury may issue licenses through its Office of Foreign Assets Control, authorizing U.S. financial institutions to engage in transactions that would otherwise be prohibited. These licenses typically allow for the facilitation of trade in humanitarian and agricultural goods such as medicines and food.

H.R. 2710 requires the administration to inform Congress that certain financial services-related licenses have been improved when they involve state sponsors of terrorism or others sanctioned for human rights abuses.

While OFAC may have good reasons to issue a license, it is essential for Congress to be aware of bad actors' access to our financial system. Though some OFAC licenses are made public, others are not disclosed or even their existence may be unknown to Congress.

By requiring a semiannual report on these licenses, my bill would make the disclosure of OFAC's actions more consistent with congressional notification procedures for other sanctions waivers. Without this knowledge, Congress is limited in its ability to oversee the implementation of sanctions.

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I am pleased to note that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have long supported this oversight, and they have provided helpful input as we have developed this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by noting that our majority support for this measure is reflective of a strong spirit of bipartisanship on the Committee on Financial Services when it comes to safeguarding our national security.

While we may not agree on everything, our Members have been extremely productive in advancing our national security interests while maintaining a vibrant financial system. It is important to have a government that is accountable, and this bill brings needed accountability to our sanctions enforcement efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2710, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I simply close by urging my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act of

2021 will help ensure that Members of Congress have the information they need to provide more effective oversight of the decisions made by Treasury and OFAC and the impact that those decisions have on sanctioned persons.

I thank Mr. STEIL for bringing this measure forward, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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 California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2710, 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.

AMENDING THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT ACT TO EXTEND THE EXCEPTION TO THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN ROADS WITHIN THE RECREATION AREA FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6364) to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the exception to the closure of certain roads within the Recreation Area for local businesses, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6364

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

SECTION 1. USE OF CERTAIN ROADS WITHIN THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

Section 4(b) of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act (Public Law 109-156; 119 Stat. 2948) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "Until" and all that follows through "subsection (a)" and inserting "Until September 30, 2026, subsection (a))".

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include additional material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6364 introduced by my colleague, Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT. This bill will amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the use of Highway 209 within the recreation area until 2026.

Mr. Speaker, in 1981, the section of Highway 209 that runs through the recreation area was transferred from the State to the National Park Service.

In 1983, Congress enacted a provision of law that closed that section of Highway 209 to commercial traffic, with an important exception for vehicles serving businesses located in or adjacent to the recreation area. Since then, the United States Congress has extended the exemption multiple times, with the latest exemption set to expire on September 30 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, without this exemption, commercial vehicles have limited acceptable alternatives. Commercial traffic would have to travel a minimum of 10 extra miles to avoid the recreation area.

This permitted access contributes to economic vitality that impacts that community, the public safety, and the quality of life of the park's adjacent communities.

I, again, thank my good colleague, Representative CARTWRIGHT, for introducing this important legislation and championing this bill on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6364 would extend the use of U.S. Route 209, a Federally owned road within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for commercial vehicles in 2026.

While I support this bill today due to the public safety issues involved, I would note that the bill was brought to the House floor prior to the committee requesting technical assistance from the National Park Service.

At legislative hearing on this bill, the National Park Service requested the opportunity to work with the committee on a technical edit to the public law referenced in the bill. Instead of waiting for administrative feedback, the bill was rushed to the floor, and as a result, may fail to achieve its goal of actually enhancing public safety.

Legislation placed on the suspension calendar should be thoroughly vetted to ensure it will execute correctly and achieve desired outcomes. I urge my

colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to ensure that legislation considered on the floor is fully vetted in the future.

Mr. Speaker, that said, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), the main sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for the opportunity to speak about this important bill, H.R. 6364, which would extend the use of Federally owned portions of Highway 209 by certain commercial vehicles serving northeastern Pennsylvania small businesses.

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area stretches across Pennsylvania and New Jersey, preserving 70,000 acres of land on both sides of the Delaware River.

Highway 209, which runs through Pennsylvania northwards into New York, cuts directly through the middle of this national recreation area. Up until the 1980s, there was heavy truck traffic all along Route 209, a heavily trafficked truck route.

In 1981, the National Park Service received jurisdiction over the section of Route 209 within that national recreation area. Then 2 years later, the 1983 Supplemental Appropriations Act closed this Federally owned segment of Highway 209 to all commercial traffic, with one exception: for light commercial vehicles serving businesses or people located in, or along, the boundaries of the national recreation area.

Since then, this limited exemption for commercial vehicles has been reauthorized by Congress multiple times on a bipartisan basis. In fact, former Pennsylvania Republican Representative Tom Marino and I co-led this same bill in 2018, this commercial vehicle exemption, that passed this body by voice vote and was signed into law by former President Trump. When that exemption expired last year, Congress included a short 1-year extension in the FY22 omnibus bill.

Mr. Speaker, that exemption expires the day after tomorrow, September 30. If Congress fails to renew the exemption, commercial traffic in northeastern Pennsylvania will be faced with limited acceptable alternatives. Commercial vehicles based in places like Monroe and Pike counties, in my district, would have to travel, as the gentlewoman mentioned, an extra 10 miles to avoid the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and small businesses locally would be hurt needlessly.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have introduced H.R. 6364, which would simply extend the existing commercial vehicle exemption until September 30, 2026.

With this extension, qualifying commercial vehicles will be allowed to continue using the Federally owned portion of Route 209, with an annual permit.

My bill would also ensure that emergency vehicles and school buses could continue utilizing sections of Highway 209 within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, toll-free.

This is a commonsense bipartisan piece of legislation that is not only supported by the National Park Service and local officials but is also broadly supported here in the House, having passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Natural Resources in July.

Mr. Speaker, I will say, despite what my friend across the aisle has said, the National Park Service has confirmed that the exemption authorized under this bill poses no safety concerns.

On behalf of the entire Commonwealth, I thank Pennsylvania Republican Representatives MEUSER and FITZPATRICK for cosponsoring this bill, as well as Senators TOOMEY and CASEY, who are championing this very same measure in the Senate.

This legislation would go a long way toward protecting northeastern Pennsylvania small businesses and our regional economy, and so it is gratifying to see that we have bipartisan support for it again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for the bill.

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and 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. TLAIB) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6364, 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.

GILT EDGE MINE CONVEYANCE ACT

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1638) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1638

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 "Gilt Edge Mine Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "Federal land" means all right, title, and interest of