

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1343, the ITS Codification Act, led by the gentleman from Georgia's First District and the gentlewoman from Colorado's Seventh District.

The effective and efficient management of our airwaves plays an important role in fueling our economy, which increasingly relies on communication between digital technologies.

As demand for wireless technology continues to grow, we must continue to focus on identifying potential opportunities to make more spectrum available for commercial use, including reallocating and sharing spectrum from Federal users.

Complex, technical engineering testing and analysis underpins these important decisions on how best to maximize our airwaves for commercial use while preserving our Federal missions.

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Indeed, having a sound technical basis supporting these decisions will help restore trust in the process among Federal agencies.

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, within NTIA plays an essential role in conducting the tests that guide these spectrum reallocation or sharing decisions. ITS will also help ensure that NTIA, as the Federal spectrum manager, can continue to find opportunities to unleash commercial wireless innovation while also ensuring military readiness, securing our southern border, and advancing scientific discovery and other successful Federal missions.

The work ITS performs has led to innovative advancements in the way we manage our airwaves. These airwaves power faster mobile connectivity for Americans, and making more spectrum available in the future is critical to beating China and ensuring our continued economic and national security.

The ITS Codification Act will strengthen the statutory authority for ITS and ensure the work they do to advance United States technological leadership remains a key part of our approach.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1343, the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, Codification Act.

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, is the premier engineering laboratory of the National Telecommunications and Information

Administration. Among its many responsibilities, ITS manages various technology development programs for NTIA and the Department of Commerce and oversees cutting-edge studies concerning the use of our country's airwaves. ITS has played a significant role in furthering telecommunication advancements for our country's benefit.

H.R. 1343 recognizes the numerous contributions of ITS by providing it with additional statutory authority. Under this legislation, ITS will serve as the primary laboratory for the executive branch of the Federal Government. It will be charged with studying the use of innovative sharing technologies for our airwaves and improving the interference tolerance of Federal systems operating with, or using, Federal spectrum.

The legislation also will allow the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, acting through the head of the ITS, to enter into agreements needed to carry out the functions of the laboratory.

This bill also requires the Assistant Secretary to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies. These technologies will then be used to locate people trapped in areas where mobile connectivity may not be available due to natural disasters and other devastating events.

I commend Representatives PETERSEN and CARTER for their bipartisan work on this bill. It will ensure that one of our Nation's key telecommunications facilities has the necessary tools and resources to not only continue its work but also expand its activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, which unanimously passed the Energy and Commerce Committee last month, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who is the bill's sponsor and the vice chairman of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1343, the ITS Codification Act.

This legislation would codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, which plays a critical role in making spectrum available for commercial use.

As we examine how Federal and commercial spectrum is allocated, it is our job as Members to ensure the agencies tasked with managing spectrum have the technical resources they need to be successful in their missions.

ITS is an essential part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and we must strengthen its statutory authority to ensure it continues informing important spectrum policy decisions.

This testing center will also play an important role in America's ability to stay ahead of international competitors like China on spectrum policy. I am confident ITS will continue to contribute to innovative advancements that are crucial for our global competitiveness.

This bill also directs ITS to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies for use in locating trapped individuals in confined spaces. This is an important initiative that has the potential to protect and save American lives.

Last Congress, this bill went through regular order and enjoyed unanimous support on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill that, as I mentioned, unanimously passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee last month. It is important.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support of H.R. 1343 and passage by the House, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1343.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1339) to require the Federal Communications Commission to review certain rules of the Commission and develop recommendations for rule changes to promote precision agriculture, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1339

*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 "Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act".

#### SEC. 2. PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY.

(a) REVIEW.—The Commission, in consultation with the Task Force, shall—

(1) review the rules of the Commission relating to fixed satellite service, mobile satellite service, and earth exploration satellite service to determine if there are rule changes that the Commission could implement under existing authority to promote precision agriculture; and

(2) if the Commission determines under paragraph (1) that there are rule changes that the Commission could implement, develop recommendations for how to implement the changes.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), including any recommendations developed under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force” means the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States established under section 12511 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill, including an exchange of letters with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 1339, the Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act, that I was pleased to introduce with the gentlewoman from Illinois' Second District.

For years, large parts of my district and rural areas across America have lacked access to fast broadband connections. Reliable internet access is more than just being able to stream your favorite TV shows and movies, Mr. Speaker. It is the crucial link connecting us all. Whether it is helping seniors access telehealth services or allowing students to complete homework assignments or enabling small businesses to reach global markets, our people, country, and economy run on a reliable internet connection.

Farmers in rural Ohio also know that reliable broadband connections are essential to their operations. After all, it helps deploy technologies that increase their productivity, produce higher yields, and minimize operating costs.

Today's smart agriculture technology, from autonomous tractors to distributed soil sensors, rely on internet connections to share data. In fact, farmers use information in real time to make smarter decisions on how to opti-

mize inputs and whether and when to plant or harvest. When terrestrial or cellular networks are not available, satellite broadband steps in to make these technologies work.

However, it is not just advanced satellite broadband capabilities that improve precision agriculture. Earth imaging satellites also provide important information that can help farmers and ranchers identify visual trends that may require immediate attention. As we heard in hearings before the Energy and Commerce Committee, satellite communications technologies can offer an array of services that may promote precision agriculture.

In order to ensure our regulations maximize these opportunities, our legislation directs the FCC to evaluate its rules and identify potential changes that could further promote precision agriculture.

I am committed to ensuring our farmers have the tools needed at their disposal to help increase productivity while minimizing costs. This legislation is a good step forward in that mission.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, April 24, 2023.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,  
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. CHAIR: I am writing concerning H.R. 1339, the “Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act”, which your committee reported on April 24, 2023.

H.R. 1339 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule Xjurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, April 25, 2023.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 1339, the “Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act,” which was referred solely to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I understand that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Committee on Science) has requested a sequential refer-

ral on the bill based on its jurisdiction over “[a]stronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities,” “[e]nvironmental research and development,” “National Aeronautic and Space Administration,” and “[o]uter Space, including exploration and control thereof.”

While I am not prepared to concede that point, I recognize the request for a sequential referral is not frivolous. I therefore thank the Committee on Science for not insist sequential referral request so that H.R. 1339 can be promptly scheduled for Floor consid the Majority Leader.

As a fellow committee chair, I understand it is your duty to protect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, and I agree that foregoing action on this bill will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in this bill or similar legislation.

I will place a copy of your letter and this response into the Congressional Record during the Floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,  
Chair.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1339, the Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act.

The innovations we are seeing in the commercial satellite industry have the potential to transform so many aspects of daily life, especially for those in more rural and remote areas.

For years, Americans have relied on satellites for a variety of services, including the Global Positioning System, radio, and television. However, now satellites are helping deliver faster broadband speeds, providing critical communications services and enabling scientists and nonprofits to monitor challenges like the climate crisis and deforestation.

This satellite evolution is also touching American farms by facilitating advancements in precision agriculture. H.R. 1339 promotes the innovation of satellite technology for precision agriculture, which uses satellite images to help farmers yield better crops and maximize their yield profitability.

The legislation directs the Federal Communications Commission to review its satellite service rules to assess whether there are any rule changes that could better enable satellites to deliver precision agriculture solutions. If the FCC finds that such rule changes exist, then this legislation requires the FCC to develop recommendations for implementing them. It also instructs the FCC to report its findings to Congress, including any recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives KELLY and LATTA for their bipartisan work on this bill, which unanimously passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee last month. With this legislation, we ensure that the FCC and its satellite service rules are enabling technological advances in the important area of precision agriculture as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this bill is bipartisan and passed out of our committee unanimously last month.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge the passage of H.R. 1339, the Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1339.

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. LATTA. 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.

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DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA IMMEDIATELY RELEASE MARK SWIDAN

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H. Res. 90) demanding that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. RES. 90

Whereas Mark Swidan is being unjustly and arbitrarily detained by the Government of the People's Republic of China, according to the United States Government and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

Whereas, Mark Swidan is a United States citizen from Luling, Texas, and is a resident of Houston, Texas;

Whereas, on November 13, 2012, Mark Swidan was abducted by officers of the Public Security Bureau while on a business trip to the People's Republic of China, and on December 21, 2012, Swidan was formally arrested following an indictment issued by the Public Prosecutions Office of the People's Procuratorate of Jiangmen City alleging that Swidan was part of a criminal conspiracy with 11 other individuals to manufacture and traffic drugs;

Whereas, on April 30, 2019, a PRC court sentenced Swidan to death, which he has appealed;

Whereas PRC security officials repeatedly attempted to coerce Swidan into signing a confession, but Swidan refused to sign a confession pleaded not guilty;

Whereas, according to evidence evaluated by the UNHRC Working Group on Arbitrary Detention—

(1) no drugs were found on Swidan or in his hotel room;

(2) the prosecution did not produce any forensic evidence of the alleged offenses;

(3) records in Swidan's passport indicate he was not in the People's Republic of China during the time of the offenses; and

(4) the 11 other individuals indicted in relation to the alleged conspiracy could not identify Swidan;

Whereas PRC officials have maliciously and systematically denied Swidan's mother Katherine Swidan, a resident of Texas, and other members of his family the ability to contact him;

Whereas the PRC have denied and continue to deny United States diplomats full consular access to Swidan, in violation of international norms;

Whereas Swidan's detention has been and continues to be inhumane, and includes exposure to extreme weather conditions, sleep deprivation, and physical and psychological abuse;

Whereas Swidan's health has precipitously deteriorated and PRC security officials continue to deny independent or competent medical care and evaluation to Swidan;

Whereas humanitarian organizations of the United States, including the Dui Hua Foundation, which helped put this case before the Working Group, and the Global Liberty Alliance, which has asked the Sister Cities programs to sever relationships with Jiangmen until Swidan is released, have sought to highlight the injustice and conditions of Swidan's detention;

Whereas the UNHRC Working Group on Arbitrary Detention—

(1) found that Swidan is being held in violation of customary international law;

(2) emphasized the nonconformity by the PRC with international norms, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

(3) stressed that "the appropriate remedy would be to release Swidan immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) demands that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party immediately release Mark Swidan;

(2) condemns the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party for refusing to provide Swidan with—

(A) regular communication with his family;

(B) access to United States diplomats; and

(C) independent and competent medical care and evaluation; and

(3) calls on the United States Government to deepen and prioritize efforts to secure the release of Swidan, including by—

(A) urging PRC counterparts at every level of engagement to release Swidan; and

(B) using the voice and vote of United States diplomats in international forums to highlight Swidan's case.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Mark Swidan is an American, a Texan, and has been a hostage of the Chinese Communist Party for more than a decade. We stand together to demand his release and an end to his torture by CCP officials.

In 2012, Mark was wrongfully detained in China for a crime he clearly did not commit. The U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has found that it was impossible for him to have committed any of the crimes he is charged with. In fact, Mr. Speaker, he was not even in China at the time the CCP says that these false crimes were committed.

Since his abduction in 2012, Mark has been grossly abused in Chinese custody. He has been held for more than a decade in temporary detention facilities intended for brief custody. He remains caged in a small, crowded cell that is freezing in the winter and sweltering in the summer. The toilet is a hole in the ground; the lights are never turned off; and he has no regular access to sunlight, a bed, or hot water.

Chinese officials have denied him proper medical care. Guards have broken his hands several times, and he has suffered a dislocated knee. Mark has lost almost 100 pounds. He suffers from tooth and gum disease, and his mouth bleeds every day. Mark has only been allowed to speak with his family a handful of times. His ordeal has taken a terrible toll on his physical and mental health.

Just last week, the People's Republic of China denied Mark's appeal and upheld the death penalty with a 2-year suspended death sentence. Threatening an American citizen with death for a crime that he could not have possibly committed is a brazen human rights violation and a disgusting example of CCP's hostage diplomacy.

Protecting Americans abroad is a priority mission of the State Department, yet State has failed to secure Mark's release or hold the CCP accountable for its gross violation of his basic human rights. Instead, the Biden administration continues to prioritize engagement with the PRC over all else, even the safety of American citizens.

This bipartisan resolution before us today unanimously passed the Foreign Affairs Committee in February. It condemns the CCP for their violation of international law and demands the immediate release of Mr. Swidan. Furthermore, it urges the Biden administration to hold the CCP accountable for its blatant violation of human rights and international law.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), my good friend, for introducing this resolution which deserves our unanimous support.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution before us today. It is