

Homeland Security has increasingly come to rely on unmanned aircraft systems, or drones.

DHS utilizes these eyes in the sky to make timely assessments about the extent of damage caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters in instances where the Federal Emergency Management Agency cannot easily deploy personnel to affected areas.

The Coast Guard uses drones to enhance its ability to collect and disseminate information on maritime hazards and threats. In remote parts of the land border, DHS uses them to detect and prevent illicit smuggling activities.

Many unmanned aircraft systems in the marketplace today are manufactured in nations considered foreign adversaries. As such, there are legitimate security concerns about the integrity of the data drones collect.

Recent reports suggest that Chinese-manufactured drones might be compromised and used to send sensitive information to the Chinese Government.

In response to security concerns, the Departments of the Interior and Defense have taken steps to limit their use of foreign-made drones.

H.R. 1501, the Unmanned Aerial Security Act, would direct the Department of Homeland Security to take similar protective measures.

It would prohibit DHS from purchasing or using drone systems manufactured in a foreign country that is deemed to be an adversary by either the intelligence community's annual threat assessment or the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Importantly, H.R. 1501 allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive the prohibition in certain circumstances, such as the national interest of the United States or for research or intelligence purposes.

Finally, the bill requires DHS to report to Congress on information related to drones, including the results of any threat assessments conducted.

H.R. 1501 has bipartisan support and was reported out of the Homeland Security Committee by voice vote.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) for introducing this bill that seeks to ensure the integrity and security of the drone systems that the Department of Homeland Security operates.

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1501, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LUNA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1501, 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. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3254) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3254

*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 "First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act".

#### SEC. 2. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking "If an applicant" and inserting the following:

"(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—If an applicant"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(2) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall implement a uniform process for reviewing applications that, in accordance with paragraph (1), contain explanations to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards developed under section 647 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 747).

"(3) FACTORS.—In carrying out the review process under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall consider the following:

"(A) Current or past use of proposed equipment or systems by Federal agencies or the Armed Forces.

"(B) The absence of a national voluntary consensus standard for such equipment or systems.

"(C) The existence of an international consensus standard for such equipment or systems, and whether such equipment or systems meets such standard.

"(D) The nature of the capability gap identified by the applicant and how such equipment or systems will address such gap.

"(E) The degree to which such equipment or systems will serve the needs of the applicant better than equipment or systems that meet or exceed existing consensus standards.

"(F) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Administrator.""; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall implement a uniform process for reviewing applications to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equip-

ment or systems not included on the Authorized Equipment List maintained by the Administrator."".

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report assessing the implementation of the review process established under paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section), including information on the following:

(1) The number of requests to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable consensus standard evaluated under such review process.

(2) The capability gaps identified by applicants and the number of such requests granted or denied.

(3) The processing time for the review of such requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 3254.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3254, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act. It is a great piece of commonsense legislation that will put in place a better process for our first responders to access FEMA grants to purchase new equipment.

I commend my colleague across the aisle, Mr. PAYNE, for his work on this legislation and supporting first responders. H.R. 3254 passed unanimously out of committee in May, and I urge my colleagues to support its final passage on the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, our communities look to our first responders to keep us safe. They are our hometown heroes, and it is a local and national tragedy whenever a first responder loses their life in the line of duty.

Earlier this month, two brave Newark firefighters, Augusto Acabou and Wayne Brooks, Jr., lost their lives fighting a shipboard fire in the Port of Newark.

That blaze also injured five of their courageous colleagues.

I believe it is critical for first responders to be prepared by having the

tools and equipment necessary to execute their mission safely and efficiently.

Congress supports first responders through DHS homeland security grant programs. However, communities cannot use such funding to purchase novel, state-of-the-art equipment because it is not on FEMA's authorized equipment list.

This equipment is rendered ineligible not because it is inferior. It is ineligible because it is so innovative that it does not meet or exceed the consensus standards that FEMA relies upon.

I first introduced this bill in the 114th Congress to require FEMA to establish an accessible and transparent process for such equipment to be evaluated. The House approved this legislation three times already. Each time it stalled in the Senate. Nevertheless, today I feel very confident that the fourth time is the charm. With the support of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, I am hopeful that this bill will get action in the Senate.

With that, Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in sending a strong message to the Senate with a decisive "yea" vote on this bill.

Our first responders are always there to help us. Now it is time to help them with the most modern equipment available to do their jobs.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3254, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we owe it to our hometown heroes to give them access to the necessary tools to carry out their missions safely and effectively.

H.R. 3254 would allow communities to use DHS grant funding to purchase advanced lifesaving technology such as systems to track firefighters in burning buildings or wildland fires.

It was cosponsored by the gentleman from Alabama, Representative STRONG, and endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The House approved the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act in the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses. It is time for us to come together to get this bill enacted.

Madam Speaker, this is very timely legislation. I am sure that people saw the tragedy that we had in Newark, New Jersey, in my district where we lost two firefighters fighting a fire on a ship in the Port of Newark. They needed this type of equipment.

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to support this legislation, H.R. 3254, which would support our first responders, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3254.

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. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS PRIMARY SPONSOR OF H.R. 2752.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the primary sponsor of H.R. 2752, a bill originally introduced by Representative Cicilline of Rhode Island, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

#### NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor today as National Hire a Veteran Day.

This day is crucial to the spirit and health of both America's veterans and our communities. Set aside to raise awareness to the unique skills and useful abilities of servicemembers after military service, we must use this day to recognize the sacrifice and the strength of our veterans.

In America's private and public sectors, qualities like dedication, determination, and tenacity are highly valuable. These are features fostered during military service and can be even more useful in nonmilitary employment. As 200,000 military members retire and become veterans each year, more and more qualified potential employees are eligible to join the greater American workforce.

Madam Speaker, as employers look to hire, they must value the talent present amongst our American troops. Each and every servicemember deserves the opportunities to create unique and positive impact after they have made sacrifices to defend our great Nation.

□ 1945

#### CELEBRATING TREVOR BAPTISTE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Trevor Baptiste, an all-star, two-time world champion lacrosse player.

Trevor is a professional lacrosse player for the Philadelphia Wings of the National Lacrosse League and the Atlas Lacrosse Club of the Premier Lacrosse League.

He was born and grew up in Newark, New Jersey, before becoming a lacrosse star at the University of Denver.

In his 4 years there, Trevor was a four-time, first-team all-American and a national champion. After college, Trevor won two world championships with the United States men's national team, and he has been an all-star every year as a professional.

His specialty is winning face-offs. In college, he owns the national record for face-offs won and the highest winning percentage. For Team USA, he has the highest face-off winning percentage in team history.

Trevor Baptiste is an exceptional lacrosse player, and I am proud to highlight him on the House floor today.

#### BRING NAVY LIEUTENANT RIDGE ALKONIS HOME

(Mr. LALOTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of United States Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, who, for the last 365 days, has been unjustly jailed by the Japanese Government.

The State Department and the Department of Defense need to demonstrate strength and exercise leverage and bring Ridge home and bring him home now.

America needs to bring Ridge home for justice's sake. America needs to bring Ridge home to send a message to the 50,000 troops we have stationed in Japan that the brass, bureaucrats, and politicians have their backs.

America needs to bring Ridge home to demonstrate to the Japanese that we are the United States of America, the world superpower, and our commitment to their defense against China and North Korea comes with a few conditions, and one of them is to treat our troops fairly.

Madam Speaker, our government has negotiated for the release of other Americans who have done far less for our great Nation than an Active-Duty naval officer. America needs to bring Ridge home. A year in prison is far too long.

#### HONORING JOYCE HAMLETT

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1