Norman

Nunn (IA)

Obernolte

Ogles

Owens

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Pence

Perry

Rose

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Salazar

Santos

Scalise

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Sessions

Simpson

Smith (MO)

Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)

Garcia (TX)

Golden (ME)

Gomez

Gonzalez,

Grijalva

Hayes

Himes

Hover

Jacobs

Jayapal

Jeffries.

Kaptur

Keating

Khanna

Kildee

Kilmer

Kuster

Kim (NJ)

Landsman

Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)

Lee (CA)

Lee (NV)

Lee (PA)

Levin

Lofgren

Magaziner

Manning

Matsui

McBath

McClellan

McCollum

McGarvey

McGovern

Menendez

Moore (WI)

Moskowitz

Meeks

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Mfume

Morelle

Moulton

Mullin

Nadler

Foushee

Frankel, Lois

Garamendi

García (IL)

Lynch

Lieu

Kelly (IL)

Horsford

Houlahan

Hoyle (OR)

Ivey Jackson (IL)

Jackson (NC)

Jackson Lee

Johnson (GA)

Vicente

Gottheimer

Harder (CA)

Higgins (NY)

Green, Al (TX)

Garcia, Robert

Goldman (NY)

Smucker

Pfluger

Posey Reschenthaler

Rodgers (WA)

Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)

Rosendale

Roy Rutherford

Schweikert

Scott, Austin

Letlow Loudermilk Lucas Luetkemeyer Luna Luttrell Mace Malliotakis Mann Massie Mast McCarthy McCaul. McClain McClintock McCormick McHenry Meuser Miller (IL) Miller (OH) Miller (WV) Mills Molinaro Moolenaar Mooney Moore (AL) Moore (UT) Moran Murphy Nehls Newhouse

Spartz Stauber Steel Stefanik Steil Steube Stewart Strong Tenney Thompson (PA) Tiffany Timmons Turner Valadao Van Drew Van Duvne Van Orden Vasquez Wagner Walberg Waltz Weber (TX) Webster (FL) Wenstrup Westerman Williams (TX) Wilson (SC) Wittman Womack Yakvm Zinke

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Adams Aguilar Allred Auchincloss Balint Barragán Beatty Bera. Beyer Bishop (GA) Blumenauer Blunt Rochester Bonamici Bowman Boyle (PA) Brown Brownley Budzinski Bush Carbajal Cárdenas Carson Carter (LA) Cartwright Casar Case Casten Castor (FL) Castro (TX) Cherfilus-McCormick Chu Clark (MA) Clarke (NY) Cleaver Clyburn Cohen Connolly Correa Costa Courtney Craig Crockett Crow Davis (IL) Davis (NC) Dean (PA) DeGette DeLauro DelBene Deluzio DeSaulnier Dingell Doggett Escobar Eshoo Espaillat Evans Fitzpatrick Fletcher Foster

Napolitano Neal Neguse Nickel Norcross Ocasio-Cortez Omar Pallone Panetta Pappas Pascrell Payne Pelosi Peltola. Perez Peters Pettersen Phillips Pingree Pocan Porter Presslev Quigley Ramirez Raskin Ross Kamlager-Dove Ruiz Ruppersberger Ryan Salinas Sánchez Sarbanes Scanlon Schakowsky Krishnamoorthi Schiff Schneider Scholten Schrier Scott (VA) Scott, David Sewell Sherman Leger Fernandez Sherrill Slotkin Smith (WA) Sorensen Soto Spanberger Stansbury Stanton Stevens Strickland Swalwell Sykes Takano Thanedar Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Titus Tlaib Tokuda Tonko Torres (CA) Torres (NY)

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Underwood Vargas Veasey Velázquez

Wasserman Schultz Waters Watson Coleman

Williams (GA) Wilson (FL)

Williams (NY)

NOT VOTING-

Buchanan Lamborn Miller-Meeks Gallego Huffman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1409

So the joint resolution was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present for Roll Call votes 379, 380, and 381 today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 379, "nay" on rollcall No. 380, and "nay" on rollcall No. 381.

\square 1415

THE ТО AUTHORIZING CLERK MAKE CORRECTIONS EN-IN GROSSMENT OF H.R. 4366, MILI-TARY CONSTRUCTION. VET-ERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 4366, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering, cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

UNMANNED AERIAL SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1501) to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring certain foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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, as amended.

The question was taken; and (twothirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-

ished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing 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 pur-

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE. OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELAT-"ENDANGERED ING TOAND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT"

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 614. I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat", and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 24

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress approves the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat" (87 Fed. Reg. 73488 (November 30, 2022)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam 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 S.J. Res. 24.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S.J. Res. 24 sponsored by Senator MULLIN of Oklahoma. This resolution will ensure that the northern long-eared bat remains protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Last November, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it would uplist the bat from threatened to endangered. The Service freely admits that a disease known as white-nose syndrome, not human activity, is the bat's main threat.

Why is that relevant? The bat's habitat spans 37 States. Uplisting the species will increase the bureaucratic red tape critical infrastructure and forest management projects will have to go through.

Yet, because a fungal disease is its main threat, those actions will not help the bat. Actually, the actions by Fish and Wildlife will hurt the bat.

The Service is pursuing a preservationist approach to recovering the species by restricting forest management activities, an approach that will prove to be unlikely to benefit the bat but is guaranteed to leave our forests unmanaged, unhealthy, and vulnerable to catastrophic events such as wildfires.

Non-forest management projects, such as roads, bridges, and pipelines that travel through the bat's habitat, will also face bureaucratic red tape. In fact, the Service has identified over 3,000 projects that will require additional permits to operate due to the uplisting.

In my home State of Arkansas, we have a few million acres of Federal land, and we do a great job managing that land. Our Federal land managers will now be focused on the bat instead of managing the habitat that is actually good for the bat.

An example of this is what was done on Federal land in Arkansas to help restore the red-cockaded woodpecker, which is an endangered species.

As you can see by this poster, this is what the forest looks like unmanaged. You see management activity of thinning and burning, and you end up with a habitat that is an open, savanna-type forest that is actually a good habitat for the bat. It is a good habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker.

With these practices put in place, not only has the woodpecker thrived, but so too have the bobwhite quail, wild

turkey, deer, a flourish of new vegetation, and more biodiversity for plant and animal species, all because of good management practices.

They now capture red-cockaded woodpeckers from this land and relocate them to other places. This is a success story, much like other management activities that we saw with the lesser prairie-chicken in the last bill we debated.

When U.S. Fish and Wildlife comes in with an uplisting, it will stop the management, and it will actually create worse habitat for the bat, as well as many other species. This is hurting—let me repeat, this is hurting—an endangered species more than it is helping an endangered species.

None of the actions Fish and Wildlife has proposed will address the bat's main threat, which is white-nose syndrome.

I want to be clear: The CRA will not remove the bat from the endangered species list. Instead, it returns the species to its previous status as threatened. This approach will allow States to continue their efforts to develop effective, voluntary conservation agreements to benefit the northern longeared bat as a species while also ensuring the long-term viability of local communities.

To date, 6 of the 37 States in the bat's range have developed habitat conservation plans to benefit the bat while providing reasonable assurances to stakeholders that forest management and infrastructure projects can continue. These plans should continue to be developed and implemented.

Again, this is a bipartisan resolution that was sent to us from the Senate. The Democrat-controlled Senate sent us this bill. It is now our obligation to pass this bill and send it to President Biden so that he can sign it into law and stop this egregious action by Fish and Wildlife, which continues to go above and beyond their authority—which has been given to them by Congress—by making rules that are based on political science, not real science.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to the resolution, but before I go into that part, I was thinking. Today doesn't feel like it is a day that we are debating chickens and bats. It feels strangely like Groundhog Day and that we are doing this over and over again.

Anyway, Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution. Like the one we just saw, this resolution doesn't do anything the American people have asked for.

In my 20 years in Congress, no constituent has ever asked me what we are doing to put the northern long-eared bat on the brink of extinction. I suspect I am not alone.

That raises a question. If the Republicans aren't answering to the American people with these absurd resolutions, who are they answering to?

Unfortunately, the answer is the same as it has been since the beginning of this Congress. Nowhere is the answer clearer than on the Natural Resources Committee, where we see countless hearings and bills just like this one that attack the Endangered Species Act and our other fundamental environmental protections like the National Environmental Policy Act.

To put it simply, the GOP's environmental and energy agenda is designed for one constituency and one constituency only—the polluting industry.

If you have any doubts, let's just do a brief recap. Starting back in January, after they finally finished the 15 votes it took to elect a Speaker, the Republican majority wasted no time in getting H.R. 21, their first and apparently last open rule bill, to the floor.

That bill was a shameless giveaway of our public lands to Big Oil. Despite the fact that they already have millions of acres of leases and they don't even use them, it was still the first important bill for the Republican majority.

Next, we had H.R. 1, fittingly dubbed the polluters over people act. Bill number "H.R. 1" is typically reserved for the majority party's most important and visionary piece of legislation. In this case, it seems the GOP's vision for America is a desperate and deliberate attempt to give oil, gas, and mining companies every handout and every loophole they can dream up.

H.R. 1 lowered royalty rates, repealed interest fees, reinstated noncompetitive leasing, weakened public health and safety guardrails, and, of course, systematically gutted NEPA.

Given the bill's unpopularity and the grim outlook anywhere beyond this extremist House majority, Republicans decided that the only way to pass it would be to hold the American people hostage with their MAGA-manufactured debt ceiling crisis and make the polluters over people act part of that ransom note.

Unfortunately for all of us, that wasn't the end of their pro-polluter crusade. Industry's favorite GOP enablers have already signaled that they are planning to use the next must-pass legislation opportunity that they have, likely our appropriations bills, as the next hostage situation.

I guess a policy agenda that only polluters want isn't something you can pass through regular order in this House, which brings us back to where we are today.

These resolutions attack the Endangered Species Act, one of the country's most beloved and successful environmental laws. In the 50 years since it was signed into law, the ESA has protected 99 percent of listed species from extinction.

No time is more important than now, while we are facing the compounding

crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss. We should be strengthening and supporting ESA science and implementation, not pecking at it in order to destroy ESA.

Before we go further, we heard from Republicans in the previous debate about how it is hurting energy and Big Oil. We have heard a lot from my colleagues about how the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat are supposedly hurting oil and gas development.

I want to take a moment to assure my Republican colleagues that they don't need to worry about Big Oil. Last year, the top oil companies—BP, Chevron, Equinor, ExxonMobil, Shell, and TotalEnergies—more than doubled their profits from 2021.

Combined, these companies raked in \$219 billion in just profits. That is not revenue; it is just profits. This windfall of cash allowed these companies to pay out a record \$110 billion in dividend buybacks to investors and CEO bonuses

Needless to say, Big Oil is doing okay. The chicken and the bat are not a threat to them, and any crocodile tears about their dire circumstances are just that. Let's remember we work for the American people and not these industry polluters.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the bal-

ance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, we talk about the northern long-eared bat, this generation's version of the spotted owl from the West Coast.

What happened with the spotted owl? Radical groups, which were, again, using political science instead of real science, got the spotted owl listed, and they shut down most of the timber industry on the West Coast.

Guess who the largest importer of timber in the world is today. The good old United States. We import more timber than anybody else while we watch wildfires devastate these lands in the West that were "protected" so we could save the spotted owl.

We have not saved the spotted owl and restored its habitat on our public lands. It is private landowners who are doing the management to create the habitat that benefits the spotted owl.

This is just another attempt by the Biden administration to kowtow to radical environmental groups and use this as a weapon to stop timber production, stop mining, and stop construction projects.

They are not focusing on the bat. They are not focusing on the real problem of white-nose syndrome. They are using the bat as a tool to stop the things that make America strong, that put America first.

They are using these tools in the next gentleman's district, and he can talk firsthand about how these burdensome regulations hurt his constituents.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER). □ 1430

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 24, the Congressional Review Act disapproval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's listing of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act.

I was proud to introduce the House companion to this resolution. I thank Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN for his partnership and leadership on this issue.

The intended purpose of the Endangered Species Act when it was passed into law half a century ago was to protect and conserve species. Once the species is restored and stabilized, it is supposed to be delisted and its population responsibly managed.

Unfortunately, this well-intentioned law is abused time and time again by radical activist extremists who would rather see a species stay listed forever to help their own agenda than follow the original intent of the law.

Time and time again, radical activist extremists have weaponized the Endangered Species Act, using it as a tool to block development, block progress, and block society from moving forward.

Rather than utilizing the law to protect different species, radical extreme activists see the Endangered Species Act as a basis for their frivolous lawsuits and as a tool to force their radical ideology onto the rest of the country.

Take the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the greatest abusers of this scheme, as an example. When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided against listing the Minnesota and Midwestern moose in 2020, they shared with the Minneapolis Star Tribune: "Now it's going to be a lot harder to ensure that things like mines and other habit-destroying projects don't go forward. . . ."

Madam Speaker, the Center for Biological Diversity said the quiet part out loud. Their intent was not to protect the species but abuse the Endangered Species Act to advance their radical anti-mining, antidevelopment agenda.

Today, the northern long-eared bat can be found across more than half of the lower 48. Its listing under the Endangered Species Act is not based in science. The northern long-eared bat is affected by white-nose syndrome, a disease that has no ties to human activity.

Unjustified concern for the northern long-eared bat is being used to stop important development and infrastructure projects left and right.

While my colleagues on the other side of the aisle cheer its listing, I have to break it to them that this irresponsible listing will hurt other projects as well. This listing will block renewable energy projects, transmission projects, and wind and solar projects.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, its listing will jeopardize wildfire mitigation, road and infrastructure construction, and agriculture. What my colleagues might not realize is this listing will even block projects that would benefit the species.

The Endangered Species Act is an important law that can help move our country forward. We should return to its intended purpose as a tool for conservation and good stewardship of our environment, not a tool for the radical activist extreme agenda.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. This is a good piece of legislation that came out of the Democrat-controlled Senate, and we ought to pass it this afternoon on the House floor.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, this week in the Rules Committee, we heard one House Republican say: Longeared bats? I hope the white-nose syndrome wipes them all out and we don't have to worry about it.

A vote for this resolution is a vote for the extinction of the northern longeared bat.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the ranking member on the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his service and for yielding me time. I certainly concur with the sentiments that he has expressed.

We hear from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that this resolution is somehow designed to modernize the Endangered Species Act. Of course, the American people know better. They understand that this resolution is designed to undermine the Endangered Species Act, and we heard that over and over again during the Rules Committee proceeding that the ranking member referenced

Putting that aside for a moment, I suspect many Americans who are watching today, Madam Speaker, are wondering what in the world is the House of Representatives debating today? They are not the only ones.

Earlier this afternoon, the majority leader from the Republican side announced that this House would be adjourning this evening. Now, as you know, Madam Speaker, in 65 days, the Federal Government will not be able to function absent this Congress passing a budget and averting a government shutdown.

The congressional recess that Republican leadership has announced that apparently is set to commence in less than 2 hours is 45 days long. Madam Speaker, you can do the math. That leaves this Congress with precious little time to do the people's business: To pass a budget to fund the government.

Instead of doing that, we are debating, what? The northern long-eared bat. That is how Republicans in Washington have determined to spend the waning hours of this congressional session. It is consistent with the way that

they have conducted their majority in this House for the better part of the last 7 months.

No bills to lower costs, no bills to grow the middle class, no bills to build safer communities. Bills on gas stoves, hearings on gas stoves, three hearings on gas stoves, bills on the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat.

The priorities that House Republicans have pursued in this Chamber are grossly out of step with the priorities of the American people. The American people expect us to do the people's work, and we are not doing that today.

I believe that in 65 days, when House Republicans shut down the government—which they seem determined to do, given that they have passed one appropriation bill before they have decided to send everybody home—the American people will be right to question the priorities of congressional Republicans; why they dither instead of working in good faith with their colleagues to fund the government, to do the basic work of governing. It is an important question, and one I hope every American asks of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

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

Madam Speaker, as Republicans, we care about Americans, American companies, American small businesses, and American workers. My colleagues across the aisle were talking about the record profits of U.S. oil and gas companies. Well, they might need to read the news a little bit deeper and look at the profits of Aramco, the Saudi-owned oil company.

There was an article in March of this year that said that Aramco's profits were \$161 billion, "... the largest annual profit ever recorded by an oil and gas company..." Aramco, the Saudiowned company. The Saudis, the ones President Biden went to and begged them to send us more oil because of his attack on energy here in America. Look who now has the largest profits of any oil company in the history of the world.

That is what these kinds of policies add up to. It is a thousand cuts. It is death by a thousand cuts. It is using every rule, every opportunity that they have to attack American energy, which makes America less strong, which feeds into the hands of our adversaries. Instead of us dominating energy, we become dependent on others to supply energy—OPEC and OPEC+ countries.

How does Putin fund his war in Ukraine? He funds it with high revenues off his oil and gas. We can change that. We can produce more gas and export it to our allies in Europe, but not under this administration, not when they are promoting rules like the lesser prairie-chicken, the northern longeared bat. They don't do a 5-year plan, they don't do leases on Federal lands or Federal waters. It is an all-out at-

tack on American energy. This is just another spoke in the wheel, another cut against the American people, against the American economy, and against the future of our country.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), chairman of the Ag Committee, who knows a little bit about the northern long-eared bat.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yes, this is an area that I have worked on for some time, northern long-eared bats. I have actually spent a lot of time in caves with a Pennsylvania bat biologist who works for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, where we did bat counts.

We looked at white-nose syndrome, which really has nothing to do with humans. This is a fungus. I think it has been around now for at least 20 years. In 2013, we had this same debate. In October 2013, there was an effort to try to list these northern long-eared bats as endangered. It was an extended debate.

Quite frankly, under the Obama administration, just a few years later, we were successful in keeping them from being listed as endangered. They were listed as threatened because what we needed more than anything else was research. We have provided that research now for 10 years, and there are good findings. We know that the temperature within those dwellings where they hibernate, the colder the temperature, the more that we can reduce how often they wake up. Quite frankly, it is when they wake up, when their hibernation is interrupted that weakens the bat, and they have more difficulties reproducing because they just don't have the energy for it, I guess.

This is like, here we go again. The distinguished ranking member mentioned Groundhog Day. I thank him for doing that. That is my district, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Groundhog Day. Here we are again, trying to relitigate through the Biden administration something that doesn't line up with the science. The science has already been established in the past.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this joint resolution to nullify the final rule classifying the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species as inappropriate. We need to continue to do the research. We need to allow the professionals to continue the work that they are doing and making the advancements that they are doing on how we can help with the environment to mitigate that.

The U.S. bat population plays an extremely important role in Pennsylvania's ecosystem and, quite frankly, America's number one industry, which is agriculture. The existing classification of the northern long-eared bats as a threatened species does not help the bats. It does not help the bats. It does not help the bats we need to strike a balance between species conservation and economic activity.

Uplisting this species is shortsighted, and this top-down approach to species conservation is inflexible and outdated.

There is no question this bat population has been in decline, but it is important to understand why. Study after study, including by Penn State University, which is in my district, has shown the decline is attributed to white-nose syndrome. This is a disease, a fungus that has no cure and is not caused by human activity.

With this decision, the Biden administration is punishing small businesses, farmers, foresters, energy producers, those who transmit electricity because this would impact the ability to clear fallen timber off of power lines. I mean, the impact is just extensive, to cover the cost of something they have no control over.

This uplisting will delay everything from broadband expansion to critical infrastructure repairs. Restrictions accompanying this decision will have significant and detrimental economic impacts in my district and others across the region. There is zero evidence that listing this bat as endangered will stop the spread of this disease.

\Box 1445

It is vital a decision of this magnitude be based on actual data and real science, not political science, and include input from impacted communities and landowners.

As we search for a cure, States should be able to take the lead on local, voluntary conservation efforts that help affected populations.

I support this joint resolution which protects landowners from unnecessary government regulation, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so, as well.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, supporters of this resolution, my Republican colleagues claim that protecting these species will upend timber industries and forest management and a list of economic activities. That is simply not true.

What specifically about forest management practice would be altered by the rule, especially given the preemptive consultations that the southern and eastern forest service regions completed last year.

Last year, in anticipation of these new listing statuses, the U.S. Forest Service preemptively completed consultation on thousands of permits to ensure that they faced no delays in ongoing or previously approved projects with the new listing status.

In addition, my colleagues and I secured over \$1 billion in funding last year for Federal agencies to hire staff and expedite Federal permitting, but Republicans voted against that effort and are now pushing extreme CRAs to worsen the dire state of America's wildlife.

It should be noted that bats are critically important to U.S. agriculture and timber industries. Bats have provided up to \$53 billion yearly in pest control services to the U.S. agricultural industry. The northern long-eared bat provides these services throughout the 37 States that it inhabits.

We keep seeing the signs about modernizing the Endangered Species Act. Republicans keep saying that they just want to modernize the Endangered Species Act, but this giveaway to dirty oil and gas looks like they want to monetize the Endangered Species Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Newhouse), the chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for letting me be part of this conversation today.

Madam Speaker, as you understand, I rise in support of S.J. Res. 24, which is an effort to disapprove the endangered listing of the northern long-eared bat by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

As you just heard, I am chairman of the Western Caucus, and I can tell you that I know firsthand how radical environmental groups will, unfortunately, weaponize the Endangered Species Act in an attempt to end development of resources in our country and prevent responsible forest management. This is just beyond the pale that these groups will do that, impacting communities around our country.

The northern long-eared bat exists in 37 States in the United States, ranging from eastern Montana, all the way to South Carolina and up to the State of Maine.

Last year, at the urging of some of these groups, Fish and Wildlife uplisted the bat from threatened to endangered. But as you have heard, the decline is not due to any human activity. It is, rather, an incurable fungal disease known as White-Nose Syndrome.

Even the Fish and Wildlife Service themselves, in the uplisting, stated that the White-Nose Syndrome is the main threat to the bat, meaning that the endangered status will do little, if anything, to recover the population.

Instead, what I will bet will happen, you can rest assured will happen, forest management will be further restricted.

Infrastructure projects, as the chairman mentioned, solar farms, wind farms, all kinds of infrastructure projects on both public as well as private lands, will be hampered, slowed, or even stopped with additional, unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

This administration continues to ignore our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and landowners in favor of these radical groups. So this resolution, I think, is critical to preventing government overreach, and I will continue to push for commonsense reform to the Endangered Species Act alongside my colleagues on our ESA working group.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this CRA.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, a comprehensive review of all 88,000-plus ESA consultations from 2008 to 2015 found that no project was stopped or extensively altered as a result of Fish

and Wildlife finding jeopardy or adverse modification during this period, and that the medium consultation duration is far lower than the maximum allowed by the Act.

Setting the record straight on that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have heard it said, this won't affect the timber industry. This won't affect the construction activities of the country, and I am sure this was said back in the 1990s when the spotted owl was listed. This won't affect the timber companies. Go tell that to the mill towns on the West Coast that were devastated by this weaponized rule.

This, again, is just another attempt by the Biden administration to use whatever tool they can to go against the things that they oppose. It is not based on science. It is based on—it is science, it is political science, that they are trying to push an agenda. I don't understand why they are trying to push this agenda.

Why do they not want America to succeed? Why do they not want rural America to be able to supply the goods and the services that this country depends on?

It is another obstacle that they will use as a weapon that is not going to help the long-eared bat. It is not going to help other species. It is actually going to hurt them when we stop management on our Federal lands and also on private lands where these bats are located.

Again, this is something that is important. It shouldn't be downplayed. I think it is an affront to rural America to say this isn't an important issue, and I think it is an affront to all Americans, even those that believe that breakfast comes from the grocery store and heat comes from the furnace, that don't appreciate the hardworking men and women across this country that provide those things.

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

myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as we end this debate on this particular issue, I had mentioned in the previous debate that let's not forget the underlying issue here. It is about energy policy. It is about energy development policy, and it is about a transition of dealing with the climate crisis and making the transition to renewable and clean energy across this country that is cheaper and is provided equitably. That is the goal. That is where we need to be.

The effort on the part of Republican majority is to continue to grow the dependency on fossil fuels and polluting industries that have contributed significantly to this climate crisis that we are involved with.

We see it around us every day. We are all going to go home to our States and our districts to deal with the issues of heat, drought, wildfires, et cetera, lack of water availability and nutrition availability.

To continue to go on a path where we reinforce the past practice by picking at and beginning to dismantle fundamental issues like clean air, clean water laws, Endangered Species Act that deals with preserving biodiversity that is critical to our lives, and the public's right to know and to participate with the National Environmental Policy Act, that is the agenda.

To reward Big Oil and big industry one more time, to build a dependency, maximize their profits, and then somewhere down the line, when the crisis of the climate is so untenable for the American people, we will deal with it. At that point it will be expensive, it will be painful, and people will suffer while we get to that point.

At the Rules Committee hearing earlier this week, one of my Republican colleagues admitted that he hoped the white-nose syndrome wipes out all the northern long-eared bats so that we won't have to worry about it. It was a pretty bold thing to admit out loud, and a little shortsighted. I might add.

The northern long-eared bat, like every species of bat we are fortunate that we have left, is critical to our ecosystem and the agricultural industry. So if these bats are wiped out, I want to point out that we actually do have to worry about it.

I also can't help but be struck by the similarities between my Republican colleagues' let's call it unique wildlife conservation strategy and the approach they are taking on many of the other issues facing the American people right now, ignoring the facts, ignoring the science, and just letting the damage ensue that has become an all-too-common GOP policy plan.

Climate change, of course, is one of the most pressing issues where the GOP plan is all too clear.

So as we wrap up here and head back to our districts, I leave my colleagues with some final thoughts. If the northern long-eared bat goes extinct, we need to worry about it. If the lesser prairie-chicken goes extinct, we need to worry about it.

If the climate crisis keeps barreling forward over these next 2 years, while our Republican colleagues refuse to do a single thing to protect communities, local businesses, and our health, we most certainly need to worry about that.

The issue for me is not singular to these two CRAs. It is about a very coordinated and deliberate effort to undo protections for the American people and for species, and to deny and to avoid dealing with the monumental crisis that we have before us, which is climate.

If we prepare in transition now, we can make it an equitable and less painful process. If we continue to pass resolutions like this and continue to follow a Big Oil, Big Gas agenda that the GOP presses upon this Congress and the American people, then that climate crisis is going to be painful, expensive, and costly to both humans and to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

We are having productive talks with our commonsense friends across the aisle on permitting reform. We made some progress in the debt limit bill, and putting some sideboards on NEPA, on pushing back against these out-of-control agencies that are delaying projects.

I would just caution my friends on the other side of the aisle that these rules that are based on a political agenda can cut both ways. Those rules can be used to stop projects that my friends would support, as well as stopping ones that they don't like.

It almost seems like there is this atmosphere of stopping everything. It is what I call the preservationist approach. I believe the central question facing us today is do we support a preservationist approach to not just recovering the northern long-eared bat, or do we support a conservationist approach?

I wholeheartedly believe that a conservationist approach is what will be most successful in maintaining bat habitat, in maintaining lesser prairie-chicken habitat, and helping all of our endangered species if we will actively work for conservation to create habitat that supports these species.

A preservationist approach will do nothing. It is basically this idea that we take a hands-off approach. We put an invisible fence around our public lands and these habitat areas and just hope for the best.

I often tell people that when you talk about conservation, you are talking about being a good steward. It is like being a gardener. It is like taking care of what you have got, leaving the Earth in a better place than you found it for future generations.

A preservationist wants to lock up the natural world and say we are going to keep it here like that piece of art on the wall. I say that conservation is for critters and preservation is for pickles.

The only way we preserve the outdoors with nature that is a living dynamic organism—it is like when you pluck a cucumber and you boil it in vinegar and you put it in a jar, you preserve it. That is not going to work for species habitat. It is not going to work for rural America that provides the necessities that our country needs.

□ 1500

The preservationist approach benefits no one, least of all the northern long-eared bat. By returning the status of the bat to threatened, Congress will be telling this administration that it believes in conservation, not preservation. Again, I remind this Chamber, this is a bipartisan bill that was sent to the House from a Democratic-controlled Senate.

We should pass this CRA, which would put it on President Biden's desk.

If he cares about America, especially if he cares about rural America, he should sign this and stop his out-ofcontrol administration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the CRA, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to S.J. Res. 24, which relates to the endangered species status of the Northern Long-Eared Bat.

S.J. Res. 24 is a resolution of congressional disapproval to legislatively down-list the Northern Long-Eared Bat from "endangered" to "threatened."

Not only would this downgrade the Northern Long-Eared Bat's status today, but it would effectively block the species from being moved up to a higher endangered threat level, no matter how close the species comes to extinction.

It would be irresponsible to use extreme legislation, not science, to down-list the Northern Long-Eared Bat, thereby effectively scaling back its protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Without ESA protections, states, industries, and other entities will have little incentive to conserve or recover the Northern Long-Eared Bat

It is highly likely that the bat populations would dwindle further toward extinction.

Moreover, by using the Congressional Review Act Process, this Congress is effectively limiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from making similar future listings for this bat species.

This proposition would prevent the agency from using its discretion to take the necessary measures for species conservation and will impede long-term recovery efforts.

Ultimately, Congressional action in this regard gives industries, not science, the upper hand in species listings.

It is clear that some of my colleagues are doing the bidding of the timber and agriculture industries, despite the consequences that Northern Long-Eared Bat extinction could have on biodiversity and long-term agriculture and timber industry practices.

Down-listing this species would be especially dangerous in the current moment because the Northern Long-Eared Bat population is actively under threat from white nose syndrome, a deadly fungus that has caused a rapid decline in bat populations.

The Northern Long-Eared Bat's current endangered status provides adequate protections while wildlife scientists work to address the underlying causes of white-nose syndrome

Congress should not be interfering with the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under its Endangered Species Act authority.

Species populations are constantly fluctuating based on environmental factors, invasive species, climate change, and other emerging threats.

To remain up to date, the ESA requires periodic study and updates to ensure protections align with the best available science.

By blocking future up-listing decisions, using the Congressional Review Act undercuts the ESA's inherent flexibility and agencies' science-based decision-making for species conservation.

I urge my colleagues to support sciencebased decisions for endangered and threatened species and oppose this bill. Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to S.J. Res. 24.

This year, we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Endangered Species Act.

This milestone anniversary is very special to me. Not only is protecting America's imperiled species one of my top priorities, but it's a value that was shared by my husband.

As an avid outdoorsman, strengthening our Nation's conservation and environmental policies was a core value of his, which is why he was 1 of the lead authors of the Endangered Species Act 50 years ago.

But instead of celebrating this historic legislation's successes over the course of the last half century, our colleagues across the aisle are pushing legislation to worsen the already-dire state of America's wildlife and attack the Endangered Species Act.

We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis that's threatening the future of some of America's most treasured species. A report has recently found that 49 percent of bird species worldwide have declining populations, and monarch butterflies have declined 85 percent in 2 decades. This should alarm all of us.

That's why I'm so disappointed with the resolution under consideration, and further attack the ESA by using the Congressional Review Act to gut protections for the lesser prairie-chicken and northern long-eared bat.

I want to take a moment to point out how ridiculous and ill-timed these resolutions are.

We are all preparing to go home and spend the next 6 weeks working in our districts. So this week, the last time we will be passing legislation until September, our colleagues have decided to use these final moments to push bats and chickens to the brink of extinction instead of doing anything to actually address our Nation's worsening biodiversity crisis, like making proactive investments in wildlife to prevent the need for additional listings in the first place.

In the middle of an expanding heatwave that's directly harming communities across the Nation, I find inaction on the climate and biodiversity crisis irresponsible and these resolutions entirely misguided.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). All time for debate has expired

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and navs were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 209, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 382]

 $YEAS\!\!-\!\!220$

Aderholt Allen Armstron Alford Amodei Arrington

Babin Golden (ME) Bacon Gonzales, Tony Baird Good (VA) Balderson Gooden (TX) Banks Gosar Granger Barr Bean (FL) Graves (LA) BentzGraves (MO) Bergman Green (TN) Rice Greene (GA) Biggs Griffith Bilirakis Grothman Bishop (NC) Guest Boebert Guthrie Hageman Bost Brecheen Harris Buck Harshbarger Bucshon Hern Higgins (LA) Burchett Burgess Hill Burlison Hinson Calvert Houchin Cammack Hudson Carey Huizenga Carl Hunt Carter (GA) Carter (TX) Jackson (TX) Chavez-DeRemer James Ciscomani Johnson (LA) Cline Johnson (OH) Cloud Johnson (SD) Clyde Jordan Joyce (OH) Cole Joyce (PA) Collins Comer Kean (NJ) Crane Kelly (MS) Crawford Kelly (PA) Crenshaw Kiggans (VA) Cuellar Kilev Kim (CA) CurtisD'Esposito Kustoff Davidson LaHood De La Cruz LaLota Des Jarlais LaMalfa. Diaz-Balart Lamborn Donalds Langworthy Duarte Latta LaTurner Duncan Dunn (FL) Lawler Lee (FL) Edwards Ellzey Lesko Emmer Letlow Loudermilk Estes Ezell Lucas Luetkemeyer Fallon Feenstra Luna Ferguson Luttrell Mace Malliotakis Finstad Fischbach Fitzgerald Mann Fleischmann Massie Flood Mast Foxx McCaul Franklin, C. McClain McClintock Scott Fry McCormick McHenry Fulcher Gaetz Meuser Gallagher Miller (IL) Garbarino Miller (OH) Garcia, Mike Miller (WV)

Mills Molinaro Moolenaar Mooney Moore (AL) Moore (UT) Moran Murphy Nehls Newhouse Norman Nunn (IA) Obernolte Ogles Owens Palmer Pence Perrv Pfluger Reschenthaler Rodgers (WA) Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rose Rosendale Rouzer Roy Rutherford Salazar Santos Scalise Schweikert Scott, Austin Self Sessions Simpson Smith (MO) Smith (NE) Smith (N.I) Smucker Spartz Stauber Steel Stefanik Steil Steube Stewart Strong Tenney Thompson (PA) Tiffany Timmons Turner Valadao Van Drew Van Duvne Van Orden Wagner Walberg Waltz Weber (TX) Webster (FL) Wenstrup Westerman Williams (TX) Wilson (SC) Wittman Womack Yakvm Zinke

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Cartwright

Gimenez

Casar DeLauro DelBene Case Casten Deluzio Castor (FL) DeSaulnier Castro (TX) Dingell Cherfilus-Doggett McCormick Escobar Chu Eshoo Clark (MA) Espaillat Clarke (NY) Evans Fitzpatrick Cleaver Fletcher Clyburn Cohen Foster Connolly Foushee Correa Costa Frost Garamendi Courtney Craig Crockett García (IL) Garcia (TX) Crow Davids (KS) Davis (IL) Gomez Davis (NC) Gonzalez, Dean (PA) Vicente

Frankel, Lois Garcia, Robert Goldman (NY)

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McGovern Schiff Green, Al (TX) Grijalva Meeks Schneider Harder (CA) Menendez Scholten Haves Meng Schrier Higgins (NY) Mfume Scott (VA) Moore (WI) Himes Scott, David Horsford Morelle Sewell Moskowitz Houlahan Sherman Hoyer Moulton Sherrill Hoyle (OR) Mrvan Slotkin Ivey Mullin Smith (WA) Jackson (IL) Nadler Sorensen Jackson (NC) Napolitano Soto Jackson Lee Neal Spanberger Jacobs Neguse Stansbury Jayapal Nickel Stanton Jeffries Norcross Stevens Johnson (GA) Ocasio-Cortez Strickland Kamlager-Dove Omar Swalwell Kaptur Pallone Svkes Keating Panetta. Takano Kelly (IL) Pappas Thanedar Pascrell Khanna Thompson (CA) Kildee Payne Thompson (MS) Kilmer Pelosi Kim (NJ) Peltola Tlaib Krishnamoorthi Perez Tokuda Kuster Peters Tonko Landsman Pettersen Torres (CA) Larsen (WA) Phillips Larson (CT) Pingree Torres (NY) Trahan Lee (CA) Pocan Trone Lee (NV) Porter Underwood Lee (PA) Pressley Vargas Leger Fernandez Quigley Vasquez Levin Ramirez Veasey Lieu Raskin Lofgren Ross Velázquez Ruiz Wasserman Lvnch Magaziner Ruppersberger Schultz Manning Rvan Waters Matsui Salinas Watson Coleman Wexton McBath Sánchez McClellan Sarbanes Wild McCollum Williams (GA) Scanlon

Schakowsky NOT VOTING-

Wilson (FL)

Buchanan Huffman Gallego Williams (NY)

McGarvey

□ 1523

Mr. McHENRY changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the joint resolution was passed. The result of the vote was announced

as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on

the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 380, "nay" on rollcall No. 381, and "nay" on rollcall No. 382.

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, supand ports our rural communities strengthens our national security and food supply by continuing critical investments in agriculture research. rural broadband, and animal and plant health programs.

The bill also provides sufficient funds to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and medical devices, which is especially important after the Biden administration's failure to protect our children from the baby formula debacle last year at the FDA. It reins in harmful

regulations that dictate how poultry and livestock producers raise and market their animals.

These provisions will be sure to help those farmers and agricultural producers in my district and across Tennessee who are fed up with bureaucrats in Washington telling them how to farm and tend to their land and animals.

□ 1530

HUDSON RIVER TUNNEL FUNDING

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Biden for helping me provide \$7 billion for the Hudson River tunnel project. The Hudson River tunnel project is the most important infrastructure project in the country.

Every day, more than 200,000 people travel through the Hudson River tunnel between New Jersey and New York. If it were to suffer a safety shutdown, it could cost America \$100 million in lost economic activity.

The current tunnel is 113 years old, and it needs to be upgraded to avoid future shutdowns. The Hudson River tunnel project will repair the current tunnel, and it would build a new tunnel next to it to improve travel throughout the Northeast corridor.

I worked diligently to get the funds for the Hudson River tunnel and the entire Gateway Program. The \$7 billion grant is the largest Federal transportation grant in American history.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to work with a President that understands the importance of the Hudson River tunnel project and what it will do for American prosperity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CRISP SHERIFF'S COUNTY DEPUTY TYEE BROWNE

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Crisp County Sheriff's Deputy Tyee Browne, who lost his life in the line of duty on July 10 at the age of 26.

Deputy Browne was a graduate of Mary Persons High School in Monroe County, and he served the Crisp County community with the sheriff's department for less than a year before he was shot and killed in a traffic stop.

Before serving Crisp County, served our Nation in the Army National Guard and dedicated his life to protecting others. His service is a powerful reminder of the sacrifice our law enforcement officers make daily to keep our communities safe.

of Deputy To the family Tyee Browne, I offer my deep condolences on behalf of Georgia's Eighth District. I